FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

LAST ISSUE

THE *EAST EUROPE DAILY REPORT* WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AS A PAPER BOOK AFTER **30 AUGUST**

TO ARRANGE FOR ELECTRONIC RECEIPT, PLEASE SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON VARIOUS OPTIONS

LAST ISSUE

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-161
Monday
19 August 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS is offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. Hardcopy reports which have already been discontinued include *Arms Control & Proliferation Issues, Environment & World Health, Narcotics, and Terrorism.*

Hardcopy publication of the regional DAILY REPORTS will cease as follows:

1 August	*China, Latin America*
19 August	*Near East and South Asia, West Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, West Europe Economic Review*
2 September	*East Asia, East Europe, East Europe Economic Review*
16 September	*Central Eurasia, Central Eurasia Military Affairs, Central Eurasia Economic Review*

FBIS' goal is to cease publication of all hardcopy reports by 31 December 1996 except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is http://wnc.fedworld.gov. Please see the next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.

World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service from the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....**$ 21**
7 Day - Introductory Offer
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number SUB-9856BDQ

World News Connection - WNC2.....**$ 50**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number PB95-985700BDQ

World News Connection - WNC3.....**$ 75**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[1 profile]
Order number PB95-985800BDQ

World News Connection - WNC4.....**$100**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[up to 5 profiles]
Order number PB95-985900BDQ
(Prices are subject to change)

User Name *(Please Print or Type)*	Internet E-mail Address *(Required)*	Order Number	Price
1)			
2)			

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at **703-321-8547**. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-161 *19 August 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: This volume contains a representative selection of material previously disseminated in softcopy format.

ALBANIA

Albania: Defense Minister Attends NATO Exercise *[ATA]* 1
Albania: Interior Minister Receives Kosova's Bukoshi *[ATA]* 1
Albania: PD, 15 Political Parties Hold Roundtable on 16 Aug *[ATA]* 1
Albania: PD, Parties Issue Joint Statement Following Talks *[ATA]* 2
Albania: Opposition Parties Boycott 16 Aug Roundtable *[ATA]* 2
Albania: PD Leader Explains Boycott of 16 Aug Talks *[ATA]* 3
Albania: PD Leader 'Skeptical' About PS 'Renovation' *[ATA]* 3
Albania: Socialists Denounce 'Ploy' of PD Roundtable *[ALBANIA, etc.]* 3
Albania: PS Conference Accuses Nano of Violating Statute *[ATA]* 5
Albania: PS Conference Demands Resignation of Pellumbi *[ATA]* 5
Albania: PDK Secretary Appointed Vice Minister of Industry *[ATA]* 6
Albania: Courts To Review Files of Prisoners in Greece *[ATA]* 6
Albania: Meat Consumption Falls Due to Cattle Diseases *[ATA]* 6

BULGARIA

Bulgaria: DPS Spokesman Rules Out Assembly Boycott *[168 CHASA 19-25 Aug]* 7
Bulgaria: Official Says Budget Update May Be Needed *[DUMA 19 Aug]* 7
Bulgaria: Economic Crisis, Political Confrontation Linked *[TRUD 19 Aug]* 8
Bulgaria: Nuclear Committee Chief on Testing of Reactor *[STANDART NEWS 6 Aug]* 9
Bulgaria: Yanev Explains Delay in Kozloduy Modernization *[STANDART NEWS 13 Aug]* 9
Bulgaria: Kozloduy Plant To Refuel No 6 Reactor *[STANDART NEWS 17 Aug]* 9

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic: Prime Minister Discusses Senate Elections *[LIDOVE NOVINY 16 Aug]* 10
Czech Republic: Klaus: Budget Is Government's First Priority *[DENNI TELEGRAF 16 Aug]* 11

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia: 'Duel' Over Orientation of Bratislava Seen *[SME 16 Aug]* 12
Slovakia: Kovac Views Prosecutor's Refusal To Respect Pardon *[PRACA 14 Aug]* 13
Slovakia: MZV Staff Banned From Attending Hungarian Reception *[SME 16 Aug]* 13
Slovakia: Meciar Criticizes Hungarian Position on Minorities *[Bratislava Radio]* 14
Slovakia: Slota Claims Coalition United on Hungarian Issue *[SME 16 Aug]* 15

HUNGARY

Hungary: Kovacs Defends Draft of Hungarian-Romanian Treaty *[Budapest Radio]* 16
Hungary: Kovacs: No Real Differences in Slovak, Romanian Treaties *[Bratislava Radio]* 16
Hungary: Prime Minister Comments on Treaty With Romania *[Budapest Radio]* 17
Hungary: World Federation of Hungarians Opposes Treaty *[Budapest Radio]* 17
Hungary: Daily Assesses Basic Treaty With Romania *[NEPSZABADSAG 16 Aug]* 17
Hungary: Editorial Views Basic Treaty With Romania *[MAGYAR HIRLAP 16 Aug]* 18

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

B-H: Prime Minister Muratovic Considers Future of Nation *[VREME 10 Aug]* 19

B-H: Prlic Sees Federation as 'Only Possible' Solution *[Sarajevo TV]* 22
B-H: Silajdzic Party To Decide on Election Boycott *[AFP]* 22
B-H: Silajdzic Views Bosnian 'Strategy' in Foreign Relations *[Sarajevo TV]* 23
B-H: SMP Candidates Meet Christopher in Sarajevo *[Belgrade Radio]* 24
B-H: Opposition, Christopher Discuss Election Conditions *[Sarajevo Radio]* 24
B-H: Ganic Says 'High-Level' FRY Delegation To Visit Sarajevo *[DNEVNI TELEGRAF 16 Aug]* 25
B-H: Official on Implementing Agreement To Disband Herzeg-Bosnia *[Sarajevo TV]* 25
B-H: Croat Official Comments on Annex to Agreed Measures *[Zagreb TV]* 27
B-H: Herzeg-Bosnia's Integration Into Federation Examined *[OSLOBODJENJE (Bosnian) 10 Aug]* 28
B-H: Bildt Threatens Local SDS Over Karadzic Posters *[AFP]* 28
B-H: IFOR Troops Break Into 'Illegal' Serb Arms Depot *[AFP]* 29
B-H: Plavsic: No Consent Given To Destroy Munitions Dump *[SRNA]* 30
B-H: Serb Army Criticizes IFOR Action on Munitions Dump *[SRNA]* 30
B-H: IFOR Operation Seen as Cover for Federation Problems *[Pale TV]* 31
B-H: Serb Leadership 'Not Satisfied' With IFOR Talks *[SRNA]* 31
B-H: IFOR Begins Serb Munitions Dump Destruction at Sokolac *[Rome Teletext]* 32
B-H: Plavsic Calls For Release of POW's *[Pale TV]* 32
B-H: Pale Denies Klickovic Obstructing Work of Joint Bodies *[Pale Radio]* 32
B-H: Plavsic Promises To Contribute to 'Successful' Elections *[SRNA]* 33
B-H: AFP: Karadzic Reportedly Attends Party Meetings *[AFP]* 33
B-H: Krasijnik Denounces OSCE Decision To Penalize Serb Party *[SRNA]* 33
B-H: SDS Offers Public Apology for Election Rules Violation *[TANJUG]* 34
B-H: Official Complains of Widespread Political Persecution *[Belgrade Radio]* 34
B-H: Radisic Stresses Milosevic Role in RS Preservation *[Belgrade Radio]* 35

CROATIA

Croatia: U.S., Germany Contest Control of Zeljava *[TELEGRAF 14 Aug]* 36
Croatia: Tudjman in Talks With Bosnian Croats *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Croatia: Granic, Milutinovic To Sign Agreement *[TANJUG]* 37
Croatia: Retired Serb General Killed in Krajina *[TANJUG]* 37
Croatia: Commentary Speculates on KOA Group *[NACIONAL 16 Aug]* 37
Croatia: Klein Opens Ferryboat Service on Drava River *[Belgrade Radio]* 41

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

FYROM: President Discusses Collective Security System *[Skopje Radio]* 42
FYROM: Academy Nominates Gligorov for Nobel Peace Prize *[MIC]* 42
FYROM: Tension in Relations With Albania Viewed *[NOVA MAKEDONIJA 15 Aug]* 43
FYROM: 4 Injured in Ammunition Factory Explosion *[TANJUG]* 44

POLAND

Poland: Dobrzanski: Issue of Tanks for Bosnia Is Confidential *[Warsaw Radio]* 45
Poland: Ministry Confident Tank Deal With Bosnia Not Lost *[Warsaw Radio]* 45
Poland: Pawlak: Warsaw Should Protect Interests When Joining EU *[Warsaw Radio]* 45
Poland: Composition of Foreign Policy Council Detailed *[Warsaw Radio]* 45
Poland: Defense Ministry Structure, Tasks Detailed *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 16 Aug]* 46
Poland: Zych Warns Peasant Party May Quit Ruling Coalition *[Warsaw Radio]* 48
Poland: PSL Head: Incumbent Ministers Cannot Be Given New Powers *[PAP]* 48

ROMANIA

Romania: Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Treaty *[Bucharest Radio]* 49
Romania: PUNR's Funar Calls For Defense of National Interests *[Bucharest Radio]* 49

Romania: Funar Wants Referendum on Hungarian Treaty *[Budapest Radio]* 49
Romania: President's Spokesman Rejects Funar Stance on Treaty *[Bucharest Radio]* 49
Romania: UDMR's Marko, Tokes Request 'Corrections' to Treaty *[Bucharest Radio]* 50
Romania: Ethnic Hungarian Leader on Party's Views of Treaty *[Budapest Radio]* 50

YUGOSLAVIA

Federal

FRY: PRC Favors Yugoslavia's Return to International Community *[Belgrade TV]* 51
FRY: FRY, Croatian Delegations Complete 'Successful' Talks *[Belgrade Radio]* 51
FRY: Albania Accused of Supporting Kosovo Separatists *[TANJUG]* 52

Serbia

Serbia: Milosevic Receives UN Administrator for E. Slavonia *[TANJUG]* 52
Serbia: SRS Assails Milosevic-Klein Talks on Reintegration *[BETA]* 52
Serbia: RSNP on Christopher-Milosevic Talks *[Belgrade Radio]* 53
Serbia: Arkan Denies Existence of KOA *[BETA]* 53
Serbia: National Democratic Revival Forming in Serbia *[DNEVNI TELEGRAF 16 Aug]* 53

Kosovo

Kosovo: 'Secret' Albanian-Serbian Talks Viewed *[KOHA JONE 17 Aug]* 54
Kosovo: Rugova Hails U.S. Statement on Pristina-Belgrade Talks *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 54
Kosovo: Rugova Announces Boycott of Nov Elections in FRY *[TANJUG]* 55
Kosovo: Tirana Press Reports Rugova's Election Boycott *[KOHA JONE 17 Aug]* 55
Kosovo: PSDK Discusses Coming Federal Elections *[Zurich BOTA SOT 17 Aug]* 55

Albania: Defense Minister Attends NATO Exercise

AU1608143296 Tirana ATA in English 1817 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Report by A. Pasko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hill Field, Camp Lejeune, August 15 (ATA)—Military troops from 19 countries including forces from former Warsaw Treaty member countries marched together for the first time Wednesday [14 August] in a military exercise of the Partnership for Peace sponsored by NATO.

The troops started their rescue humanitarian and peacekeeping exercises with a parade and a performance in one of the bases of the U.S. Marine Troops. Attending the ceremony also were the children of the militaries, a relation which symbolizes the peace safeguarding.

The NATO member countries, the U.S., Canada, and Holland are taking part in Cooperative Osprey '96 exercise together with former members of the Warsaw Treaty including Albania, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Present in the main tribune were senior representatives of the NATO member and partner countries among whom the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence John White and the Albanian Minister of Defence Safet Zhulali. The message of Mr. White conveyed the greetings of President Clinton and U.S. Defence Secretary for the cooperation of the peoples in the name of peace. White said that the operations to be conducted in Camp Lejeune these days are the same as those carried out in Bosnia.

The Silent Exercise unit of the U.S. Marine Troops paraded in the opening ceremony whereas a unit from each participating country marched in light armoured vehicles and by helicopters such as CH-46 and AH-1 Cobra. After the greeting by White, the troops left by CH46E helicopters.

At the end of the opening ceremony, Albanian Minister Zhulali met with Albanian troops participating in a commanded exercise by noncommissioned colonel Perikli Qorri.

Albania: Interior Minister Receives Kosova's Bukoshi

AU1608151496 Tirana ATA in English 1843 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 15 (ATA)—Today Albanian Interior Minister Halit Shamata met with the Premier of the Republic of Kosova Dr. Bujar Bukoshi and the chief of the Office of the Republic of Kosova in Tirana, Iljaz Ramajli.

During the meeting they treated various issues about the present situation in the Republic of Kosova.

The same day Mr. Shamata had a meeting with the ambassador of Romania and dean of the diplomatic corps in Albania, Gheorge Miku.

The two officials appreciated the cooperation between the two interior ministries and voiced their readiness for a further consolidation of cooperation between the two parties.

Albania: PD, 15 Political Parties Hold Roundtable on 16 Aug

AU1608201096 Tirana ATA in English 1841 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by Atlant Frasheri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—Discussion of important problems related to the preparation of local elections and some aspects of the Election Law, the Anti-Genocide Law, the technical procedure of the election campaign, and the voting process were some of the questions discussed in a round table held today between Democratic Party [PD] and 15 political parties.

These parties are not represented in the local government and in the parliament and have not been invited in former round tables.

"The questions presented here are of interest for all Albanian political parties despite their being or not represented in the parliament because the parties represented in the local government are in a greater number than those represented in the Albanian parliament," said PD chief Tritan Shehu at the beginning of the meeting.

After the discussion of the main problems preoccupying the Albanian policy today, such as local elections of October 20, Shehu guaranteed that "the Parliament will examine the proposals of the round table, the same will do the government regarding questions which are related with it and which need a solution."

The political forces present in the meeting expressed their opinions about improvements in various directions and finally formed a common opinion in many aspects they discussed.

The talks were held without reporters. The participating parties considered the talks as successful and agreed to gather again before the parliament resumes work.

Absent in this meeting were the Democratic Alliance Party and the Right Democratic Party representatives who refused to take part in the round table.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Albania: PD, Parties Issue Joint Statement Following Talks

AU1708155796 Tirana ATA in English 1058 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—The Democratic Party [PD] and 15 other non parliamentary political parties held a round table on Friday [16 August]. The parties, two of the government coalition and 14 of the opposition, came out with a joint statement.

The statement says that this round table was held "to dialogue and exchange views on current important problems of the Albanian politics."

Attending the talks were: The Democratic Party, the New Socialist Party, the People's Progress Party, Democratic Union Party, the Christian-Democratic Party, the Christian-Democratic Union Party, the National Rights Defence Party, the Democratic Ideal Party, the Democratic National Alliance Party, the People's League Party, the Albanian Green Party, the Legaliteti National Party, The National-Democratic Party, The Social-Democratic Union Party, the Universal Party, and the Triumph of Legality Party.

The parties in the meeting discussed the improvement of the local elections mechanism, the functioning of the local government, the Anti-Genocide Law, that of scrutinizing the political figures and other issues.

The statement says that the parties "agreed that the existing Local Elections Law is in general a law of European standard, which guarantees free and fair elections."

The parties fully agreed to the creation of the permanent Central Electoral Commission and its structures, decreed by the President of the Republic. They considered it an act which fully complies with the recommendations of the International institutions and which contributes to the consolidation of democratic processes in Albania.

In the statement the "political parties ask the parliament to impose legal sanctions on individuals who by party order or without the permission of the commissions boycott the voting process and to consider invalid the votes of the political force which boycotts the ballot, also imposing legal sanctions on those who undertake this act."

Albania: Opposition Parties Boycott 16 Aug Roundtable

AU1608165496 Tirana ATA in English 1309 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by A. Frasheri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—Some small parties rejected the Democratic Party [PD] invitation to attend a round table initiated by the PD to discuss about the Law on Local Elections and the role of police during the voting days.

"On such conditions, when the actual regime is imposing a situation of terror and insecurity for the local elections through the creation of a commission which favours the PD and the fixing of the date of election without realising the opposition conditions, the parties asked in this table declare they will not attend it and will not recognise the decisions coming out of this table," said a statement of the Right Democratic Party [PDD], the Right Republican Party [PRD], the Democratic Alliance Party [AD], the Agrarian Party [PA], the Social Democratic Party [PSD], and the Socialist Party [PS] after a meeting held in the premises of the PSD Thursday [15 August].

The statement said these parties "as the initiators of the dialogue, remain open to sit in every table which invites all political parties interested to discuss the realisation of the conditions of the CE [Council of Europe] resolution and declarations of the U.S. Department of State."

President of the Republic has organised two meetings about these problems. The opposition parties invited in these meetings refused to attend these talks.

The PS and PSD have declared they will boycott a round table initiated by the PD on August 16 with parties represented in the local government, while the AD and PDD will boycott the PD round table with political parties not represented in the local government.

Besnik Gjongecaj, the PD secretary general, said that "the round table initiated by the PD where the AD and PDD are invited is organised to discuss the Law on Local Elections according the CE recommendations."

The President's decree on the appointment of the members in the Central Election Commission said that four members would be from the PD and the Republican Party, Christian Democrat Party, and the Social Democratic Union Party would have one member each, while the opposition would have four from the PS and one member from the PSD, PA and the Human Rights Union Party respectively.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Albania: PD Leader Explains Boycott of 16 Aug Talks

AU1708155596 Tirana ATA in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 96

[Report by A. Frasheri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—The Democratic Alliance Party [AD] and the Right Democratic Party [PDD] boycotted a Democratic Party [PD] initiated meeting Friday [16 August] with the political parties not represented in the local government and parliament and those which have not been previously invited in the discussions regarding the local elections.

Both parties attended a meeting Thursday [15 August] initiated by the Centre Pole.

The PD has initiated this round table attended by 16 parties to discuss about aspects of local elections, improvements of the Election Law, any possible amendment of the Law on Genocide and technical election problems and to express its engagement in assuring calm and honest local elections in accordance with international standards.

The AD and PDD after boycotting the May 26 elections have rejected the PD invitation for talks acting thus against the recommendations of CE and other international institutions.

Shehu, the PD chairman, explaining the reasons of their boycott said: "I can not help saying that every attempt for boycott is connected with concepts and ideas which seek to settle matters in an arbitrary way and connected with the idea that through a permanent boycott to threaten the Albanian democracy."

The opposition pretensions expressed in a statement after the meeting of seven parties initiated by the AD and the Social Democratic Party is that such meetings want to split the opposition.

Shehu said "I can not realise how can the opposition be split when 16 parties of all Albanian political trends attend the meeting."

"We have organised meetings with the Socialist Party [PS], have asked for meetings with the parties represented in the local government and those not represented widening the number of these meetings," said Shehu.

AD's main pretension is that the main influential parties should be convened to discuss.

Shehu said in front of journalists that the AD is a party with an electorate under 1.5 per cent of votes which was present only in the last elections.

While the PS Deputy Chairman Namik Dokle in the PS conference in the Vlore district answering to a sympathiser of Neritan Ceka said: "Do not compare our party with that of Ceka which is not recognised at all. If we have not taken him to Strasbourg and other European chancelleries no one would have known him yet."

Albania: PD Leader 'Skeptical' About PS 'Renovation'

AU1708210096 Tirana ATA in English 1110 GMT 17 Aug 96

[Report by A. Frasheri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—The Democratic Party [PD] Chairman Tritan Shehu after a meeting of 16 Albanian political parties answering to a question of a journalist "How do you see the political developments inside the Socialist Party [PS]?" said he was skeptical about a renovation of the PS even after its congress which will be held on August 23-24.

"The real PS's renovation will be a long process and all signs show such a thing," said Shehu, adding that "It is impossible for a 50-year old party based on Stalinist ideas to be changed into a true social democratic party within some weeks."

Shehu said "We hope in a PS renovation but deep changes are necessary for this in people, mentality, psychology, programmes, and specially in those people who lead the party," but neither Nano nor anyone else who are the outcome of the PLA [Party of Labor of Albania] can renovate the PS.

"This will be realised by true social democrats."

Speaking about the present groupings inside the PS, Shehu said "It is difficult for me to find out which group does Nano and other leaders belong to, but I am convinced that within the PS do exist young men with real social democratic vision, but the worst of it is the coexistence of three groups: one with real social democratic elements, one with nostalgic elements, and another with segments of the former State Sigurimi (former secrete police). The last one dominates in it."

Albania: Socialists Denounce 'Ploy' of PD Roundtable

AU1808182596

[FBIS Report] Tirana ALBANIA in Albanian on 17 August carries on page three a 600-word report by A.N., entitled "Legal Sanctions for Those Who Boycott," describing a roundtable of 16 political parties, initiated by the Democratic Party [PD], that met in Tirana on 16 August to discuss plans for the 20 October local

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

elections. The Socialist paper Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian on 17 August carries on page five an 800-word commentary on the meeting by Bashkim Koci, entitled "Democratic Party Maneuvers for Another Great Shambles."

ALBANIA's report states, "According to the joint statement signed by the leaders of the political parties, the meeting agreed that the existing law on local government elections is in general up to European standards and guarantees free and fair elections; however, they suggested to parliament that the law should lay down all the legal deadlines to improve the electoral schedule. The meeting also fully supported the creation of a Permanent Central Electoral Commission and the apparatus it requires, as has been decreed by the president of the republic, and considered this to be in full agreement with the recommendations of international institutions, which will contribute to consolidating democratic processes in Albania."

The report concludes, "The declaration goes on to state that the parties attending the roundtable ask parliament to provide for legal sanctions against people who abandon the process of voting under party instructions and without the permission of the commissions, to declare void the votes for political forces that impose boycotts, and to impose legal sanctions against those who make decisions for such steps. The political parties attending yesterday's meeting asked the parliament for respect for the democratic laws it itself has issued. They came out firmly against the repeal of the Antigenocide Law and the Law on Screening Official Figures, stressing that those responsible for the massacres of Tivar and Shkoder and for the inhuman persecution of 400,000 Albanians cannot take part in Albanian political life. The parties participating in this meeting at which the declaration was signed were the PD, the New Socialist Party, the Albanian Popular Progress Party, the Albanian Democratic Union, the Christian Democratic Party, the Albanian Christian Democratic Union, the Party for the Protection of National Rights, the Democratic Ideal Party, the Albanian National Democratic Covenant Party, the Albanian Popular League, the Albanian Green Party, the National Legality Party, the National Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Union, the Universal Party, and the Triumph of Legality Party. Only Abdi Baleta, chairman of the National Revival Party, did not sign the final declaration. Asked about the results of this discussion table, he said that everything leaves a trace behind it, and every trace is a kind of result, which some people may like and some people may not. These parties agreed to hold another meeting before the parliamentary session starts to analyze their proposals better and to present them in more concentrated form to parliament to amend current legislation."

ZERI I POPULLIT's commentary on the roundtable states: "On the initiative of the PD, but virtually under its entire command, a meeting was held yesterday of 14 nonparliamentary parties (the Radio-Television was pleased to say 16) to discuss the law for the local elections on 20 October. Although no journalists were present at the meeting, we learned that the meeting concluded as ever with a backstairs attempt by the PD to repeat 26 May by rigging the local elections. We hear that the little parties paid attention to the big PD, except for the representatives of the Nationalist Party and the National Revival Party, who did not approve the final declaration. We know that the table remained one-third empty because the seven parties of the opposition did not take part in the meeting, but called it a PD ploy to split the opposition. Mr. Tritan Shehu, the PD chairman, tried to call this three-legged table 'extremely important, of great value for political dialogue,' which is one more fib from this powerless party chairman to deceive the public. The demagogy of the national leader went to the limit when he said that the meeting was an opportunity 'to express all kinds of concern over the local government elections,' at a time when it was this very Tritan alongside his party and Berisha who plotted and carried out the disgraceful scenario for the manipulation of the parliamentary elections of 26 May, and who, despite harsh condemnation at home and abroad, have not taken a single serious step to restore the people's faith in the values of democracy.

"The opposition raised its objections and did not fall into the trap prepared by the PD, but issued a joint statement that ruined the PD's short- and long-term plans.

"Tritan's statement at yesterday's discussion table that 'We are ready to issue a useful conclusion,' is at the level of a professional thief, who after committing robbery with violence, announces that he is ready to capture the culprit.

"Tritan Shehu knows perfectly well that it is the Socialist Party [PS] that initiated roundtables to take tangible steps forward to implement the resolutions of the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the U.S. State Department, and that at these roundtables the PS has laid down the conditions and steps necessary to restore the people's faith in the values of democracy and to condemn the coup d'etat of 26 May.

"However, the PD is not interested in condemning 26 May because it knows full well what happened on that day of the great theft and who was responsible for it."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The commentary continues, "Shehu's promise yesterday that 'All the parties' demands will be examined with great responsibility' is a lie from start to finish and a nasty attempt not only to deceive the political parties at home but also the public abroad, especially the chancelleries that have asked for the parliamentary elections to be held again."

The commentary further states, "The genuine opposition ignored the PD's discussion table. Of course, the 'guests' who agreed to each eat a mess of potage did not really understand what little weight they carry in Albanian politics, not even the 'party' headed by the president's favorite, Professor Bujar Hoxha. Common sense suggests that the PD is involving itself in not only unpleasant but also dangerous maneuvers." The commentary concludes, "As for discussion tables like yesterday's, it would be better for Albanian democracy if they had never been heard of."

Albania: PS Conference Accuses Nano of Violating Statute

AU1708154396 Tirana ATA in English
1843 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by M. Malja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shkoder, August 16 (ATA)—Cheers for Fatos Nano, Socialist Party [PS] leader could not bar the polemic among PS leaders in the 3rd PS conference of Shkoder held today.

Besides the delegates, attending the conference also was the PS Deputy Chairman Ilir Meta and the member of the General Leading Council of this party, Bashkim Zeneli.

"I have supported the petition but I have asked that the executive presidency should function because in this way Nano violated the statute," said Meta in his address regarding a petition that Nano (imprisoned for corruption and falsification of documents regarding Italian aid for Albania in the period he was prime minister in 1991,) has sent to the PS presidency.

The chairman of the PS Presidency for Shkoder Sadedin Stankaj, who held the report on the activity of the PS between the two conferences, focused especially on the renovation of the party. He said that this process "is a task of all and that it must be realised both in higher and lower instances. In this way we show ourselves to represent a party of a real social democratic type."

Twenty-three speakers in the conference supported the petition of Nano.

In a meeting that Meta had in Italy recently with Italian SDP leaders Massimo D'Alema and Piero Fassino, he was told that "PS should perform clearly its reformation not only in the program but also in the replacement of people in order to have the support of the Socialist International." About 70 per cent of the grass root organizations and of the Presidency of the PS come from the ranks of the former Party of Labour.

"The right wing in Europe," said Meta, "is very powerful and the pressure from the left wing is very great, since we represent a former communist party."

Albania: PS Conference Demands Resignation of Pellumbi

AU1608164596 Tirana ATA in English
1308 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by P. Zekthi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 15 (ATA)—The Socialist Party [PS] conference in Elbasan branch discussed the present splits within this party in favour and against its reformation.

The resignation of the PS Deputy Chairman Servet Pellumbi was asked in the conference, while the other deputy chairman Namik Dokle defended himself by attacking the PS leader Fatos Nano.

"Pellumbi should resign from the PS's Presidency because it is in honour and to the benefit of the PS," said in his ussion Durim Hushi, one of the PS Leading Committee in Elbasan branch.

His discussion echoed strongly against the superficial general opinion to "defend the unity" which was present in the discussions of the PS Deputy Chairman Namik Dokle, the PS chairman of Elbasan branch Dritan Cerma and others.

Hushi called the people attending the meeting and the PS leading body to participate in the local elections and to say no to the boycott.

"The loss of the May 26 elections," said Hushi "who was at the same time a PS candidate for deputy, should not be dedicated only to Sali Berisha and the Democratic Party [PD] but even to the PS foreign policy, which failed to assure a sufficient support abroad. The four deputy chairmen and chairman Nano are responsible as well, so we should seek quick changes."

Another discussion supported his idea.

"I am pro Nano's motion for the reformation of the PS, but with some personal reserves which nevertheless do not show the contrary," said the PS Deputy Chairman Dokle, regarding a motion and other messages of the imprisoned PS leader Fatos Nano directed to his party

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

presidency. Nano accused Dokle as one of the hinders for the PS reformation.

Dokle said the participation in the local elections will be decided by the PS congress and the precipitation of events till then.

The PS leader Fatos Nano is imprisoned under the charge of falsification of documents and corruption, regarding the Italian aid while he was in office as prime minister in 1991.

Albania: PDK Secretary Appointed Vice Minister of Industry

AU1608183596 Tirana ATA in English 1658 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—Secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party of Albania [PDK], Nikolin Kurti, is appointed deputy minister of the Ministry of Industry, Transport, and Trade, spokesman of this party Fran Bruka reports.

"This is only the beginning of cooperation, the Presidency of the Christian Democratic Party has presented its demands to the Presidency of the Democratic Party and we are expecting a reply or the realisation of our demands," says the Christian Democratic Party chief Zef Bushati.

Albania: Courts To Review Files of Prisoners in Greece

AU1608162496 Tirana ATA in English 1305 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 16 (ATA)—A flux of files of the Albanian emigrants who are suffering their punishment in the Greek jails for committing different crimes is expected to arrive soon in the Albanian courts, writes Friday the daily ALBANIA.

Officials of the Tirana Court are expected to realise an enormous job, by examining the cases of the Albanian emigrants who have requested to suffer the rest of their punishment in the Albanian jails.

ALBANIA, referring to the statistics of the Albanian Ministry of Justice, which refers to the information of Greek Ministry of Justice, writes that some 200 Albanian prisoners in Greek jails have demanded to finish their punishment in Albania.

According to the same statistics, quoted by ALBANIA, some 700 Albanians are suffering their punishment for different crimes in the Greek jails. The specialists explain that not all of them have the right to come to Albania.

The Tirana Court has just finished the judgment of the first four cases, which marks the beginning of a long procedure. This procedure is mainly a formal procedure which functions according to a bilateral agreement signed last year between the authorities of justice in Tirana and Athens.

Sources of the Albanian Ministry of Justice say that until now the courts in different districts of Albania have finished judgment of some 23 cases and this number soon is expected to increase.

Albania: Meat Consumption Falls Due to Cattle Diseases

AU1608155396 Tirana ATA in English 1845 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Report by M. Kora]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, August 15 (ATA)—During June-July period, people in Tirana have consumed 50 per cent less meat because of aphthous fever.

Specialists of Veterinary Office in the Tirana municipality declare that the small cattle disease has lowered the amount of fresh and processed meat trading.

Meat sellers say that "papers cause panic among the people and now we have no work to do."

Specialists say that the centre of the non-mortal disease is Korce, southeastern Albania, is limited and 600 sick animals have been buried, while others have been vaccinated twice so far.

Specialists have inspected 17 communes of Tirana district. Other dangerous diseases in animals have not been neglected as well.

Recent data prove that the situation in the prefecture of Korce is stabilized as a result of the efficient technical-organization measures adopted.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bulgaria: DPS Spokesman Rules Out Assembly Boycott

AU1908123496 Sofia 168 CHASA in Bulgarian 19-25 Aug 96 No 34, p 15

[Interview with DPS Spokesman Yudjel Atilla by Ivan Tropankev; place and date not given: "We Do Not Need Any Street Rally Heroes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tropankev] Mr. Atilla, is it possible that the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] may organize antigovernment demonstrations by tobacco producers?

[Atilla] We have discussed this possibility as one of the ways to provoke a parliamentary crisis, but we have not decided on a date.

[Tropankev] Have you also discussed the possibility of boycotting parliament together with the other opposition forces?

[Atilla] At the moment, the opposition is experiencing an upswing, so there is no logic in leaving parliament now before the parliamentary elections. This would only have a bad effect on our campaign. If we come out into the streets, this would only be putting aces into the hands of the rulers.

[Tropankev] Ahmed Dogan is not excluding this possibility.

[Atilla] The question is what would be achieved by going into the streets. This ploy was already used by the 39 deputies in 1991. A repetition will not be regarded in the same manner. In politics, all hackneyed moves are doomed to failure. I consider that the present presidential election campaign is going very well for the opposition. For this reason, if we do provoke a parliamentary crisis, this will be done after we have won the elections. Even if the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] loses the presidential elections by a narrow margin, it would be a signal that a new majority already exists in the country. Then again, if the Communists suffer a catastrophic defeat, then we will not stay in this parliament for a moment longer. In addition, the BSP would find it difficult to oppose early parliamentary elections when it is evident that public opinion has shifted extensively.

[Tropankev] Nevertheless, if Dogan announces that he is walking out of parliament in September, will you follow him?

[Atilla] First, I doubt whether he will do this. Second, there is no obstacle to Dogan leading the protest actions by the tobacco producers without leaving parliament. This year, there has been a drought and, unless tobacco purchasing prices are increased, our people are doomed to hunger because they will be unable to recoup the money that they have invested from the proceeds of the harvest. Third, if a protest does take place, it will have to be a nationwide protest. Everything must be discussed in advance and coordinated with the opposition forces. We will not make any new street rally heroes. Their time ended with Edvin Sugarev's hunger strike. Now, social discontent as a weapon must be directed solely in support of a convincing victory for Stoyanov in the presidential elections.

[Tropankev] Does this mean that a DPS walkout from parliament would not be an additional factor to the public discontent?

[Atilla] No, we will not leave parliament. Ahmed [Dogan] was simply a little too hasty. The new disposition of forces will become clear when we see the results of the presidential elections. Only the election result will show that the majority in parliament is no longer the majority view among the public. I would like to point out that Dogan's move is not the only wrong one. Filip Dimitrov is also wrong in calling for a shadow cabinet. This is simply a false start; if such a cabinet were set up, it would surely offer real individuals, who from that point on will be vulnerable to attacks from the BSP. At the moment, the BSP is like a drowning man who is willing to clutch at any straw to survive. No one in the opposition, especially Filip Dimitrov, should offer them this opportunity.

Bulgaria: Official Says Budget Update May Be Needed

AU1908085296 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 19 Aug 96 p 5

["DUMA PRESS" staff report: "Konakchiev: Second Budget Update Is Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It cannot be ruled out that a second budget update may be needed, although this does not form part of the government's policy or its assessments. Deputy Prime Minister Doncho Konakchiev made this statement to journalists at the Albena resort yesterday.

Konakchiev admits the possibility of speculative actions in the banking and finance sector, as well as in the field of certain basic commodities. According to him, alongside the internal situation, shocks may also be expected in the international market and the Black Sea fuel market, which will affect prices in Bulgaria. Nevertheless, the cabinet predicts that these factors will remain relatively stable. The updated budget is based on an interest rate of 115 percent, the deputy prime minister said, noting that inflation from January to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

present has not exceeded 85 percent. He stressed that inflation in August will not exceed 14 percent.

Financial observers recall that at the end of last year Deputy Prime Minister Rumen Gechev predicted a 1996 inflation rate of 20 percent. According to the official figures of the National Statistical Institute, the lev suffered a 23.3 percent devaluation in July alone. The collapse of the national currency against the dollar compelled the Bulgarian National Bank to raise the base interest rate to 108 percent on 10 May this year, which in turn led to a marked stagnation of credit lines to the industrial sector and private business.

Doncho Konakchiev accused the media of wrongly interpreting the statement made by National Prices Commission Chief Dimitur Grivekov and of claiming that the prices of basic goods would be frozen in the autumn. Konakchiev explained that certain of the provisions of Article 10 of the Prices Act may be applied, but this will only involve putting the prices of certain goods under special control. In his opinion, it is as yet too early to consider such a measure.

Bulgaria: Economic Crisis, Political Confrontation Linked

AU1908131896 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 19 Aug 96 pp 15-16

[Commentary by Emil Mitev: "IMF May Cut the Thread on Which Our Economy Hangs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Public attention has been directed exclusively toward aspects of the foreign debt. It is true that our country has never previously in its history faced such payments. In spite of this, the domestic debt is of much more significance because it is the main indicator of economic activity and accordingly of our readiness to assume foreign burdens.

The 1996 GDP is expected to be 900 billion leva; at the same time, domestic debt is expected to exceed 500 billion leva. According to macroeconomic criteria, if domestic debt exceeds 30 percent of GDP, the country is threatened with disaster. Bulgaria is on the way to exceeding this indicator by 100 percent.

Geopolitical Context

The situation in Bulgaria is evoking a very broad international response in Russia, one that is sympathetic toward the Bulgarians, politically hostile toward the Bulgarian Socialists, and creates a political lesson for the Russian electorate. The Russian equivalent of NEWSWEEK declared way back in June: "A catastrophe is taking place. The world press is not yet writing about it; OGONYEK will be the first, but the Bulgarian drama is not made any less serious by the silence that accompanies it."

The IMF can easily sever the fragile thread on which the Bulgarian economy hangs. Public statements by IMF representatives in Bulgaria have unequivocally shown that the fund is clearly aware of the quality of the Socialist administration. Ms. McGuirk made consensus a condition for a new standby agreement. Despite the evident absence of consensus (in the meantime the opposition had proposed a no-confidence vote), the agreement was nevertheless signed. Had it not been, the government would have had no other choice than to announce a new moratorium on foreign debt payments, in other words, a return to the starting point of 1990. In such an case, the foreign creditor banks would be the ones to suffer and the national economic bankruptcy would meant humanitarian aid, measures to restrain a new wave of migration, and risks of an unpredictable political destabilization in the region.

In the final event, Bulgaria was given a breather in return for assuming certain obligations, of which the structural reform is the common denominator.

The government's official explanation of the economic difficulties that the population is suffering is that it is the price that must be paid for the structural reform which only the Socialists dared to start. The opposition's version is precisely the opposite, namely that the former Communists are incapable of conducting a structural reform in the spirit of capitalism and that a right-wing transition is impossible with a left-wing government.

In reality, the main reason for the stalemate situation is the sharp political confrontation, with a relative equilibrium of forces created since the time of the national roundtable. Each of the two opposing political forces and, more important, the socioeconomic categories standing behind them—the former nomenklatura and the former owners—had wanted to gain more advantageous positions before the launch of the reform. Because of this, Bulgaria fell behind its former partners of the Eastern bloc both in 1992 and in 1995.

The current delay is an attempt to exploit the reform for selfish advantage, not to seek some kind of communist alternative or a return to the planned economy. From this point of view, one can understand the tactical accents on "stabilization" before the reform and the personnel decisions, which sometimes reach the point of absurdity but are nonetheless understandable according to the force of the logic of "nashism" ["our very own-ism"] (the concept "nashism" was introduced by Russian political scientists to denote the singular "ideology" of the "ruling party," but it is becoming increasingly applicable to Bulgarian realities).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

However, from this point on a boomerang effect is produced: Temporary positions of strength are consolidated at the expense of farsighted decisions for society at large. Accordingly, the ruling team faces the dilemma of whether to change to a fundamentally new strategy or to get trapped in a vicious circle, seeking to compensate for the consequences of a power-based strategy once again with strength itself.

Bulgaria: Nuclear Committee Chief on Testing of Reactor

AU0608095296 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian 6 Aug 96 p 2

[Commentary by Yanko Yanev, chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy: "We May Speak of Great Technological Interest, but Not of Espionage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is true that when such templates are taken, all those who manufacture or use nuclear reactors show immense technological interest. The manufacturers want to find out about the state and durability of their technology. Russia is the most interested here, but other countries are interested as well.

Again, those who use reactors want to know which analytical methods they should use to feel secure with their own nuclear plants. Thus, technological interest undoubtedly exists. The term espionage is not very precise because such materials are largely accessible, and many countries are taking part in similar projects.

At present, it is especially important for the EU and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to clearly understand the technology of the WWER reactors [water-moderated water-cooled power reactors], because adequate information about the other types of reactors already exists. This explains the interest in the results of the tests on the specimens. If the result is bad, Bulgaria will automatically lose 400 megawatts of generating capacity, and serious attention will have to be paid to all the other reactors in this region.

It is quite another issue if the result is good, and this is more than certain. All the preliminary analyses that Westinghouse and Siemens have completed in the last four to five months have shown that the situation is not so tragic as the Western media tried to make us believe last year.

The result will also be beneficial in the sense that it will make it clear how long this reactor will operate, and it will also put a stop to the stories about closing down the reactor for good.

Bulgaria: Yanev Explains Delay in Kozloduy Modernization

AU1308070896 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian 13 Aug 96 p 12

[Statement by Yanko Yanev, chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy: "Modernization of Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant Is Delayed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is our task to prevent technical and technological problems from becoming political ones, as was the case with the first reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant. Indeed, the modernization of the reactors and the plant was delayed somewhat, but the reasons are absolutely objective. First, the necessary equipment was delivered. We did not have sufficient information about this equipment, and requested new tests. Now we are making up for the delay. The modernization of the fourth reactor will most likely be completed at the beginning of 1997 and not at the end of 1996, as originally envisaged.

The modernization program for the third and fourth reactors is financed by the European Commission, while the modernization of the first and second reactor is fully financed by the National Electricity Company.

Bulgaria: Kozloduy Plant To Refuel No 6 Reactor

AU1908081396 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian 17 Aug 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Reactor unit No. 6 at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant will shut down for refueling on 23 August, the plant's deputy manager Ivan Ivanov announced yesterday.

Ivanov explained that engineer Kozma Kuzmanov, director of the National Electricity Company and the former chief of Kozloduy, has arranged with Russia to pay for the fuel in two installments of $2 million each.

It emerged yesterday that the chief of the Kozloduy plant is undergoing treatment for an ulcer in the Academy of Military Medicine in Sofia. The doctors treating him said that the therapy is proceeding successfully.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Republic: Prime Minister Discusses Senate Elections

AU1608152496 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 16 Aug 96 pp 1-2

["Regular" interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Ladislav Jakl; place and date not given: "We Want To Win the Battle for the Senate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jakl] Would you say that the Senate is in the shadow of your attention? Are you really interested in winning the Senate elections?

[Klaus] You must differentiate here. One thing is the long-term view of whether our political system would be enriched and improved if another institution is added. I have never concealed the opinion that this is not the main thing to benefit the political system. Nevertheless, at the moment the Senate is here and with it the Senate elections, and the general opinion regarding its necessity must not lead to passivity. We take the Senate elections very seriously, and I believe that the new start with the new manager for the Senate elections, Tomas Ratiborsky, indicates that much.

[Jakl] What have you done specifically for a victory in the Senate elections?

[Klaus] First, it is necessary to convince voters that the Senate elections are a serious matter. I believe that so far the voter has not really taken notice of the Senate elections. It is very important to see how much this will change over the next three months.

[Jakl] He has not taken it so politically.

[Klaus] Yes. Another thing is whether the political perception of the elections will dominate or whether those who have always spoken against political parties will convince voters that the Senate is about something else and that one should not vote according to party affiliation, politically, ideologically. I certainly am one of the people who believe that an independent candidate for the Senate, without a firm footing somewhere, is not the real thing that is missing in our political system.

[Jakl] So you would agree that an independent politician is mostly independent of the voter?

[Klaus] The so-called independence of any political structure actually is a mirror image of the independence of the voter and completely free movement in the political space.

[Jakl] Do you believe that the current discussion about the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] has a real intrinsic content?

[Klaus] It certainly should have an intrinsic content. Otherwise it would be empty and useless. There is no doubt that our country and by extension the ODS reached a different stage and that one must reflect on this and discuss it. I would always begin, however, with the content rather than the form. After all, I raise topics for polemics every week in LIDOVE NOVINY. Let my colleagues try to do the same.

[Jakl] What do you prefer—to satisfy the voter and succeed in elections or maintain your ideological stand and try to bring the voters over even at a risk of losing influence?

[Klaus] A clear separation of these two views simply is not possible. Every politician is moving on a very fine edge between the two possibilities, and he or she would not be a politician without a clear vision and a firm ideological footing. He or she would not be a politician without being able to listen and sense the social atmosphere. Reality is the precise determination of this edge on which he or she moves.

[Jakl] Do you have a limit,beyond which you would not want any more votes if you were to pay for them with too many compromises?

[Klaus] One must differentiate here between the proportional and the majority systems. This difference is reflected in the difference between a large and a small number of political parties. It is obvious that there is an unbelievable spectrum of opinions in the British Conservative Party or the U.S. Republican Party because the 50 percent of votes that the party wants to win in the elections is such an incongruous group of people that one cannot speak about uniform ideology. Also, if you follow the Republican convention, you get the impression that everyone there would consider it ideationally tremendously diffused. In the situation of a system of two political parties, however, it is completely logical and natural. Hence, the question must necessarily stand differently from here.

[Jakl] The government is a professional collective. It is experiencing the first weeks of its existence now. How is it, however, from the human point of view? Are you friends, are you a team?

[Klaus] The government is to a great degree an old-new government; the nucleus has not changed. So, the question is rather how the few new faces will fit in. We, the old-new, have a feeling of continuity rather than a sense of some marked change.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Republic: Klaus: Budget Is Government's First Priority

AU1608131996 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 16 Aug 96 p 3

["Regular" interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Jan Patocka; place and date not given: "Factions Should Not Form on Personal Basis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Patocka] What do you consider to be the government priorities for the coming months and the remainder of the year? Do you believe that the higher inflation could have a negative impact on macroeconomic stability?

[Klaus] The absolute priority of the government in the coming days and weeks is the state budget. I must even say that the government is not so concerned with the happenings in the Chamber of Deputies. The approval of the budget, complicated by the political structure of the current parliament, is the dominant topic of the day—how to combine the certainly very conflicting interests of the individual departments in the government. The coming six weeks will be mostly concerned with this. Regarding inflation, the figures I see certainly do not make me happy, but, on the other hand, I must say we are still moving within the 1 percent up or down margin, which is very unpleasant when it is up, but one cannot call it a breach in the macroeconomic situation.

[Patocka] Are you concerned about a further growth of prices in connection with the pressure exerted by the farmers on higher production prices, which certainly would buttress the opposition and help its endeavors to reinforce the role of the state?

[Klaus] Of course, the issue of agricultural prices is a great burden, and I do not like the conduct of the farmers, who are trying to exploit the present situation. Moreover, I cannot say that the work of the Market Regulation Fund and other institutions is ideal in this respect. I believe, however, that we should wait for more profound analyses. I would like to discuss this at the especially called meeting of the economy ministers on the topic of cereals next Tuesday afternoon.

[Patocka] Is it possible for the Czech Republic to effectively fend off the left-wing tendencies detectable in almost all of European states and, to a certain degree, also in the United States?

[Klaus] I believe that the best defense of the Czech Republic against this trend is our experience of 50 years. I believe that, thanks to this, we are much more sensitive than the countries that have not experienced communism. I believe this to be our best weapon in this incessant struggle. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Slovakia: 'Duel' Over Orientation of Bratislava Seen

AU1908123096 Bratislava SME in Slovak 16 Aug 96 p 6

["Analysis" by Ivan Horsky: "The Struggle for Slovakia: The Second Round?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether the reports from Moscow about an alleged exchange of top secret letters between the Kremlin and the White House on the countries that may or may not become future NATO members are true or not, this—including Yeltsin's discussions with his new spokesman, the current Russian ambassador in Bratislava—says something about Slovakia, about a new round in the duel for influence in the Central European region.

Right from the start, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy is not in an enviable position in his new role; right away he has to face a situation that is not very pleasant. However, he is one of the younger guard of Russian diplomats that has understood the new azimuths very quickly and, without ideological blinkers, tactfully but firmly promotes the interests of the country.

The fact that he procured a transfer to the kitchen of Russian policy by his activity in Bratislava is, to a great extent, a reward for his work in Slovakia. At the same time, however, Moscow is not so interested in acquiring a direct ally in Slovakia. That is, the Kremlin strategists are making far greater use of Meciar and Co. as a troublesome element in this region, because, in view of the fact that it borders directly on the other three candidates for NATO membership, they can exert indirect pressure on this sensitive region.

Whether the contents of the Yeltsin-Clinton correspondence are true or not, the fragmentary reports that have been coming out of Moscow for months confirm that the experts there have long been prepared to accept quietly the enlargement of the North Atlantic alliance. True, with one exception: The Baltic countries. Let people in the West say what they like on this subject, it cannot be taken into consideration realistically in the foreseeable future that these former Soviet republics could become NATO members.

That is, Moscow regards them and the Caucasus region to be its, so to speak, soft underbelly that has to remain at least within the area of its strategic foreground. Otherwise, this would completely separate the armed-to-the-teeth Kaliningrad oblast from the mother country. Moreover, NATO would not be interested in having such a Russian enclave within its borders, because it could act as a troublesome element in this region.

Although Russian authorities constantly emphasize their opposition to the plan to enlarge the alliance eastward, the compromise proposals from Moscow—put forward this year by the head of Russian diplomacy, Yevgeniy Primakov—indicate that they are taking a realistic view of the overall situation there. They are trying to attain the best possible result for themselves. And, that is, undoubtedly, the objective of preventing the deployment of the alliance's military structures up to the borders of the former Soviet Union.

S. Yastrzhembskiy, by his adroit activity, has at least managed to achieve a certain reorientation in the values of the current Slovak Government in the sense that, on behalf of Russia, he supported its not exactly democratic exploits on the domestic political scene and also activated the revival of economic ties. So far, however, without a more visible effect, apart from the increase in Slovakia's deficit in mutual trade, because almost nothing has been achieved—besides the bilateral agreeable words and promises—in other commodities.

Official Bratislava is doing something else to its own detriment on behalf of this vision, which is the work of the lobby of former major exporters of consumer and engineering goods to the insatiable former Soviet market. It, however, has long ceased to exist, because stronger and cheaper competition has already settled there. It is as if it has not realized that, in the final analysis, Russia and Hungary have far more in common than it seems at first glance. This is, first and foremost, concern about their minorities—which, not by the ordinance of fate, but by the vision of their unsuccessful expansive policy—have found themselves outside of their mother countries.

However, the so-called Slovak nationalists and opponents of NATO membership or, rather, the advocates of neutrality do not give any consideration to this at all.

The attempt to play at being a kind of Central European Switzerland is, to say the least, aberrant, because it has no chance in real policy. The Central European region is too high profile and important for this. Therefore, we are now witnessing another act in the duel over Slovakia's orientation. As historical experience shows, it is only possible to sit on two stools for a while, because there is then a real danger of falling between them. The consequences resulting from this can be dreadful.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Slovakia: Kovac Views Prosecutor's Refusal To Respect Pardon

AU1608125596 Bratislava PRACA in Slovak 14 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Interview with Slovak President Michal Kovac by Ivan Ceredejev in Bratislava on 13 August: "M. Kovac: I Am Relying on the Prosecutor General's Common Sense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—President Michal Kovac granted an interview to PRACA yesterday in connection with the decision by Prosecutor General Michal Valo not to respect the presidential pardon granted to two of the accused in the Technopol case with the intention of enabling them to testify before German investigative bodies.

[Ceredejev] Mr. President, what kind of ruling do you expect the Constitutional Court to issue in this dispute and when?

[Kovac] I am relying, first and foremost, on the prosecutor general's common sense. I hope that he will realize what his step means with regard to bolstering the principles of a law-governed state and, of course, respect for the Constitution and constitutional officials. I have no doubt that the submission made to the Constitutional Court will be discussed relatively quickly, because, in this matter, it is also in the interest of the Constitutional Court to ensure that the resolution of this issue is not delayed.

I have no doubts. It cannot decide other than that the president of the republic has the right to grant a pardon at his own discretion and that the Prosecutor General's Office is obliged to guarantee execution of his decision. The Constitutional Court will decide in harmony with the Constitution.

[Ceredejev] Do you have any information about whether the Prosecutor General's Office has taken action in the case of the "documentary" broadcast by Slovak Television in April in which its anonymous makers denounced you?

[Kovac] I have no such information, and I do not think that the Prosecutor General's Office would do anything in this matter. This institution takes action based on who is the stronger and not based on upholding the law and legality. This is sad, and it proves that the prosecutor general has let himself be led along the wrong path, which is dangerous for the development of democracy in society.

[Ceredejev] Today (that is, yesterday) you submitted a protest against the ruling of the investigator who decided to adjourn the complaint submitted by you against the prime minister regarding his statements about you. Do you think that the verdict could be reversed?

[Kovac] In view of the fact that this is a very unusual matter, I thought for a long time about whether to protest against the ruling. I realized, however, what it could mean morally and psychologically for other investigators and prosecutors in the future if the fact that their work is carried out not from the point of view of the law and demonstrating the facts of a case, but from the point of view of the political will of the powerful, were merely glossed over. Not doing anything would mean tacitly tolerating this course of action and taking the risk of it spreading en masse as under the former totalitarian regime. Although it is very unpleasant for me, because this dispute really is not good for the Slovak Republic's image, I thought that the lesser of two evils would be to try and make sure that the prosecutors and investigators realize that no matter who is involved, whether it is the president, prime minister, interior minister, Slovak Information Service director, or anyone else, they have to proceed impartially. This is the only path that will guarantee justice and legal certainty for our citizens.

Slovakia: MZV Staff Banned From Attending Hungarian Reception

AU1608130896 Bratislava SME in Slovak 16 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by "(mim)": "MZV SR Staff Received an Order Not To Attend the Hungarian Ambassador's Reception"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—Staff at the Slovak Foreign Ministry (MZV SR) were urged not to attend the reception organized in Bratislava yesterday by Hungarian Ambassador to the Slovak Republic J. Boros to mark the Hungarian Republic's national holiday and the 1,100th anniversary of the arrival of the Magyars in the region. According to several sources, an internal order was issued by the Slovak ministry. A meeting scheduled for Tuesday [13 August] between the Slovak and Hungarian prime ministers, V. Meciar and G. Horn, was postponed on Monday. The informal meeting, which according to Hungarian officials was called off by the Slovak side, was also supposed to have dealt with the joint declaration adopted by the participants in the Hungarian-Hungarian summit held in Budapest at the beginning of July. The declaration, in which the concept of autonomy cropped up, was sharply criticized by officials from the MZV SR and the ruling parties. Hungarian Prime Minister G. Horn, however, has refused to view the joint declaration as support from the Hungarian Government for the separatist

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

endeavors of the Hungarians living in Slovakia. The 1,100th anniversary of the arrival of the Magyars in the Carpathian basin also provoked controversy recently in the Slovak parliament, first and foremost, on the part of the coalition Slovak National Party. The National Council of the Slovak Republic approved a resolution in June condemning the initiatives by local authorities in southern and eastern Slovakia to erect monuments in Slovak towns and communities—such as, for example, in Velke Kapusany—commemorating this anniversary.

Slovakia: Meciar Criticizes Hungarian Position on Minorities

LD1608203796 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1637 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Regular Friday interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by Martin Dobos; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dobos] After a two-week break when you were on vacation, prime minister, we are now continuing our regular Friday interviews. Let us return to the situation you had to handle at the beginning of the week, that is immediately after your return from vacation. Your planned meeting with the Hungarian prime minister which did not take place in the end caused a great deal of alarm and speculation in our neighbors' as well as in our own country. Whatever the reason for postponing the date, how will the postponement of the meeting and the reasons that led to it affect Slovak-Hungarian relations?

[Meciar] My vacation was a working one and I stayed in Slovakia the whole time. During this vacation, I had two urgent telephone conversations with Prime Minister Horn. We talked about the need to respond to the given situation and we thought the situation might improve if we met. We agreed on the conditions for the meeting, its time and place. By mutual agreement, we postponed the meeting to a later date.

If there were negative reactions in Slovakia to some political steps taken at the conference, entitled Hungary and Hungarians Beyond the Borders, it was first and foremost because of the content [of the final communique]. Even though the Hungarian side has been trying to calm the situation, saying it is not a legally binding document, the Slovak side cannot ignore the fact that it is a political program, that it was a confirmation of an organizational structure [as heard], that the Hungarian Republic provided financial backing, and that the Hungarian Government expressed its support for the program through the signature of the foreign minister and of the head of the Hungarian Government office dealing with ethnic Hungarians living beyond the borders.

As far as the content of the document is concerned, it is a waste of time to play with words. What is decisive is the long-term trend apparent in Slovakia since 1918—permanent attempts to restore Greater Hungary under various pretexts. We perceive it like this and regard the pressure for autonomy only as an interlude. Therefore, in a wider historical context, and as far as future developments are concerned, we have been proposing to put a stop to ethnic differences and to look for ways that will bring together and unite the future united Europe.

[Dobos] On Sunday, before the originally planned date for your meeting, Prime Minister Horn said that the final document from that Hungarian-Hungarian summit did not contain anything indicating a change in Hungary's foreign policy and that it is in harmony with his government statement, European and international standards, and with the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty.

[Meciar] [Passage omitted] First of all, the Hungarian Constitution is valid within the borders of their state. We do not have a situation in which two constitutions apply, with some of the citizens in the countries bordering on Hungary being affected by the obligations imposed on the other government by the Hungarian Constitution.

The other problematic point is the understanding of the status of minorities. In the Slovak Republic the guarantees for the existence and survival of minorities are very good. However, it is not acceptable to have the government of another state trying to play the role of patron and to speak on behalf of these minorities—their government is the Slovak one.

At the above-mentioned summit, views were voiced hinting at a certain contradiction between European integration and the minority policy of all Hungary's neighbors. We are in favor of supporting each other as regards minority policy. At the same time, we are against provoking tension in mutual relations and within ethnic groups living in our states, in the Slovak Republic, and others. [passage omitted]

We can say that we have achieved significant progress in Hungarian-Slovak relations. We want to continue this way. However, at the same time, we have the right to demand that they renounce intervention in the internal affairs of other states and patronage of the ethnic Hungarians living on our territory. We have the right to demand that the Hungarian Government publicly renounce the signing of the above-mentioned document as something that contradicts international law.

[Dobos] Should we understand your words in the sense that a change in the Hungarian Government's attitude to the statement adopted by the Hungarian-Hungarian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

summit is a condition or prerequisite for your meeting with Mr. Horn?

[Meciar] I do not mean it in this way. Politicians and government officials need to meet each other in any situation. Without a dialogue, suspicion and tension grow. Politics is not conducted in the media or in the papers. [passage omitted]

[Dobos] Are there any grounds for expecting you to meet Prime Minister Horn before 13 September when you will be meeting him at the summit of the Central European Free Trade Association?

[Meciar] I can neither confirm that such a meeting is planned, nor can I deny it. The date has not been agreed on yet; the meeting has been postponed indefinitely. [passage omitted]

Slovakia: Slota Claims Coalition United on Hungarian Issue

AU1608133596 Bratislava SME in Slovak 16 Aug 96 p 2

[CTK report: "The Coalition Is United on the 'Hungarian Issue'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zilina—According to Jan Slota, the Slovak ruling coalition has become united on the "Hungarian issue." Slota indicated in Zilina yesterday that Bratislava is keeping an eye not only on the activities of the leaders of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, but also on Budapest. The Slovak National Party, however, does not intend to initiate talks on the possible abrogation of the treaty with Hungary, which it considered doing shortly after a declaration was issued by the "Hungary and Hungarians Abroad" conference in Budapest in which a demand was made for autonomy for Hungarians. "The treaty has been ratified," commented Slota. National Council of the Slovak Republic Deputy Chairman Jan Luptak considers Meciar's postponement of his meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister G. Horn to be correct. According to Luptak, he interfered in the Slovak Republic's internal affairs when he supported the conclusions of the Budapest conference. "Slovakia is sovereign and no one from another country will dictate to it. There has already been enough diktat," Luptak emphasized.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hungary: Kovacs Defends Draft of Hungarian-Romanian Treaty

LD1608125396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs has said that Budapest did not harm the ethnic Hungarians' interests by approving the draft of the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty.

Kovacs told the opposition parties that the treaty contained Recommendation No. 1201 of the Council of Europe. He added, however, that the recommendation did not oblige Romania to allow territorial autonomy on an ethnic basis and had no reference to collective rights either.

The Christian Democratic People's Party urges an extraordinary parliament session because it is of the view that the government 'has been surrendering the rights of the ethnic Hungarians to the Romanian leaders, who have been reluctant to improve the situation of the minorities.'

The Hungarian Democratic Forum also disagrees with the draft of the Hungarian-Romanian treaty. It regards the draft as a step back compared with the text negotiated by the previous government.

The Alliance of Free Democrats is of the view that the draft text does not exclude the Hungarians' autonomy endeavors and contains several elements for guaranteeing the protection of the ethnic Hungarians' interests.

According to the Federation of Young Democrats, there are no guarantees for the protection of minority rights in Romania.

The Independent Smallholders' Party opposes the signing of the treaty. It is of the opinion that the possibility of a peaceful border modification must be sustained.

Hungary: Kovacs: No Real Differences in Slovak, Romanian Treaties

LD1608135596 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Any differences between the wording of the key passages of the Slovak-Hungarian and Romanian-Hungarian basic treaties are in form rather than substance, Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs told Slovak radio's Radiozurnal today. In the morning the minister received representatives of the opposition parties to inform them about the latest developments in the relations between Budapest and Bucharest. Our Budapest correspondent Gregor Martin Papucsek reports:

[Papucsek] The Hungarian foreign minister, who this morning met the opposition parties in connection with the completion of the text of the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty, failed to dispel their concerns. Opposition representatives continue to believe that the government, so to speak, betrayed the interests of the Hungarian minority. They point out that in comparison with the communique of the July Budapest summit of extraterritorial Hungarians, which included such terms as autonomy and collective rights, the key passage of the text of the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty is a step back. The opposition adds that both Budapest and Bucharest acted under strong pressure from the West, the United States in particular. Incidentally, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry today informed NATO ambassadors about the whole affair.

The Hungarian foreign minister has answered several questions from Slovak radio. Speaking to him in his office, we asked him particularly about any differences between those passages in the Slovak-Hungarian and Romanian-Hungarian basic treaties that interpret the well-known Council of Europe Recommendation 1201.

[Kovacs in Hungarian fading into Slovak report] At the request of the Slovak side, a passage referring to Recommendation 1201 was included in the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty. The passage notes that in implementing the Council of Europe recommendation the two sides should take into account individual rights. In other words it reflects the Slovak stance, which does not accept collective rights. However, this particular passage is not explicit. By emphasizing individual rights it merely implies that the Slovak side does not accept collective rights.

The Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty, too, mentions Recommendation 1201 as a legally binding document. But in this case a footnote attached to it notes the two sides' view that Recommendation 2101 does not refer to collective rights. Indeed, anyone who has carefully read this particular Council of Europe recommendation, has not found the term collective rights in it.

The minister added that in the case of the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty the inclusion of the recommendation amounted to a statement of fact and not to a concession on the Hungarian side.

We then asked the Hungarian foreign minister whether there were any differences between the Slovak-Hungarian and Romanian-Hungarian treaties.

[Kovacs in Hungarian fading into Slovak report] I think the differences are in the form, rather than substance. After all the fact that we attached a footnote to a certain passage does not emphasize the meaning of that passage.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Likewise, it is a fact that the Slovak Government does not accept collective rights—quite irrespective of the fact that the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty does not put things in such a way.

In conclusion, Foreign Minister Kovacs added that he would not venture to say when the postponed meeting of prime ministers Vladimir Meciar and Gyula Horn would take place.

Hungary: Prime Minister Comments on Treaty With Romania

LD1708145296 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Prime Minister Gyula Horn, the Hungarian opposition's reservations regarding the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty must not be identified with public opinion. In an exclusive statement to "Chronicle," Gyula Horn stressed his conviction that it is impossible to sign agreements with neighbouring countries which satisfy all needs. At the same time, documents aiming at reconciliation and lasting cooperation must be signed by all means, since without these we cannot join the European Union. Gyula Horn spoke to Peter Obersovszky.

[Begin recording] [Horn] The significance of a basic treaty is not to solve everything. A basic treaty sets down principles. A basic treaty is used by the signatory states to give each other and the communities of nations an indication of their endeavours. It is obvious that from this viewpoint the Hungarian-Slovak and the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaties are very good signals for the West.

[Obersovszky] Are you determined to sign the basic treaty if an agreement can be reached on the principles which are known at the moment, should a signal arrive from Bucharest that they would sign it before elections take place there?

[Horn] Yes, I am prepared to sign it. I have not made it a secret even to the public, it is not an issue of prestige for me where we sign it, in Bucharest, Budapest or somewhere else. There has been no renouncing of principles by either side.

I wish to stress also that the oft-mentioned collective rights are not stated in international documents, not even in the Council of Europe Recommendation No. 1201. The main issue here is to guarantee that individuals can exercise their rights within a community and on the other hand if there is a disputed issue regarding interpretation, then the community of nations leaves it for the countries concerned to reach an agreement.

Sometimes I feel, having heard and read various statements here in Hungary, that a lot of people would not be very happy if we began accession talks with the European Union in the first half of 1998. I must confess that I do not really understand these people since this is not a matter of party political interests. It is not only in the interest of the HSP [Hungarian Socialist Party] and the SZDSZ [Alliance of Free Democrats] that Hungary should start these talks, it is a national interest. It is in the interest of the country, it must be in the interest of every rational party. [end recording]

Hungary: World Federation of Hungarians Opposes Treaty

LD1808143096 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1200 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Federation of Hungarians considers the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty unacceptable in its current form, and asks the government to reconsider its stand. According to the federation, the Horn government is restricting the national interests of Hungarians living abroad because, in contrast with its earlier promises, it no longer supports political, territorial, and cultural autonomy. According to the World Federation of Hungarians, the only basic treaty that can be signed is one that guarantees by law the collective rights of the Hungarians living in Romania, while the text currently awaiting signing does not.

Furthermore, the organization criticizes the fact that, according to the document, the Hungarian communities living beyond the border cannot get back their confiscated assets, schools, libraries, lands, art treasures, and relics.

Hungary: Daily Assesses Basic Treaty With Romania

AU1608154896 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Aug 96 p 3

[Editorial by Laszlo M. Lengyel: "The Circle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hungarian foreign policy, which has been said to be a success story, has now come under fire. Although we do not yet know the final text of the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty, we are already aware of the doubts. We do not know the reasons, either, for the great haste in finalizing the treaty and why in this form, so we are forced to assess the event on the basis of the perceivable or possible consequences.

We have heard that the version which the Romanian press calls Foreign Minister Melescanu's compromise solution is actually the Romanian concretized version

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of Laszlo Kovacs's one-year-old proposal. Should this not have been made clear to avoid the current fears?

We also know that certain passages, namely the support for the possibility of self-government and autonomy, of the closing statement of the Hungarian-Hungarian summit—whose effects were stronger than planned—created antagonistic feelings even in those government circles that otherwise support Hungarian foreign policy efforts, for example, in the United States, Germany, and among influential EU, and especially NATO, politicians.

Which one was true, when the document was described as an achievement befitting the millenium of national cohesion, or when worries started to be voiced because of foreign and domestic reservations? Being aware that the basic treaty has become a virtual magic word in NATO circles, we must increasingly face the fact that, at least in the daily work of diplomacy, a conflict, like a paradox, lies between the so ardently desired Euro-Atlantic integration and support for the Hungarians beyond the border. Why have we not been able to resolve this? Would it not have been the task to first dispel foreign concerns by showing the true intentions and the actual situation of the Hungarians beyond the border, and only hurry with the basic treaty afterwards? Will Romania broadcast this attitude as a confirmation of its previously voiced arguments?

Is it in the vital interest of minority Hungarians to exercise their rights recognized in any kind of national or international document in practice together with their fellow sufferers? Are the foundation of parties, the free practice of religion, education in the mother tongue, or the preservation of culture not such rights?

Recommendation No. 1201 of the Council of Europe, which was included in the basic treaty as what it is, namely a recommendation, does not indeed contain collective rights, and cannot indeed be a legal basis for any kind of ethnically based territorial autonomy. However, the whole practice and politics of the Council of Europe is in favor of true democratic exercise of power. The local assertion of the will of the local majority is certainly part of this notion, whatever we call it.

If the joint interpretation means the latter, then this basic treaty is needed. Then we did need to get rid of the Hungarian-Hungarian summit's nonexistent shackles—which the world nonetheless believes to be existent—because new prospects are being opened to the Hungarians in Romania, and hopefully in Slovakia, too. In that case, everything is in perfect order.

But what if not? Then, unfortunately, the circle has been closed. And then the interpretation that the Hungarian Government closed it will also be unavoidable.

Hungary: Editorial Views Basic Treaty With Romania

AU1608155696 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 16 Aug 96 p 7

[Editorial by Otto Neumann: "Progress Is Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Certainly, it cannot be denied that not everything is in order around the text of the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty, which was completed with lightning speed after a difficult inching ahead. It is very awkward that 40 days after the Hungarian-Hungarian summit's political statement supporting autonomy, Budapest excludes territorial autonomy in its interpretation of the Council of Europe's Recommendation No. 1201. It is astonishing that on the day of the Bucharest agreement, the chairman of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania said that no one had informed them of the text that Budapest declared acceptable.

The Hungarian diplomacy's reputation was greatly tarnished by the well-publicized assumption in the Romanian press that, after the Hungarian Government's statement on supporting autonomy, Washington rebuked Budapest and told it that now it better sign that basic treaty right away. This cannot be effectively denied.

The opposition is correct in not seeing the quick text coordination in Bucharest as a successful diplomatic step. However, we should somehow separate the content from the form. We should quietly admit that, at the moment, it is still impossible to ensure a bigger scope for the national minorities' autonomy efforts in interstate agreements than what was achieved in Bucharest. It is not an argument that the signing of the basic treaty strengthens Iliescu's campaign: Neighbors will remain neighbors, no matter who the president is. In fact, the signing of the treaty will not close a process: It can prepare the ground for further progress. However, it is thought-provoking that Funar's extremist party and some representatives of the Hungarian opposition cried treason in connection with the same draft text.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Prime Minister Muratovic Considers Future of Nation

AU1708205196 Belgrade VREME in Serbo-Croatian 10 Aug 96 pp 20-22

[Interview with Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic by Radenko Udovicic; place and date not given: "Bar Is Closer Than Ploce"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan Muratovic was born in Olovo in 1940. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University in Ljubljana, a master's degree at the University in Sarajevo, and a doctorate in organization sciences at the University of Belgrade. He teaches organization and analysis of information systems at the Sarajevo University School of Electrical Engineering and the School of Economics.

After 16 June 1992, he was a minister in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government. During the four years of war, as minister for relations with UNPROFOR, he "survived" six changes in the government and three different prime ministers. After Haris Silajdzic's resignation in February 1996, he himself became prime minister. According to local surveys, he is among the most popular politicians in Sarajevo (according to a survey conducted by Radio 99, he is in fourth place, behind Izetbegovic, Silajdzic, and Lagumdzija). At some point, it was thought that he belonged to the so-called soft line within the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] and many people saw him in Silajdzic's party. However, he recently announced that he would be running in the elections for the Federal Parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a candidate of the SDA.

[Udovicic] A top state delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina recently signed a number of agreements with the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Belgrade. Has the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina begun implementing these agreements?

[Muratovic] We began working on the implementation of these agreements immediately. As far as economic cooperation is concerned, we have held several meetings. Our companies are prepared to start carrying out business arrangements immediately. As for passports and their validity in the agreed regime without visas, I think that this already functions. We have tried it and this agreement works. In other words, citizens can freely cross over into Yugoslavia and come here from Yugoslavia, without any special procedures. We will endeavor to directly implement the most important segments of the economic agreement. Our aim is to see that the Belgrade-Zvornik-Tuzla railway line is operational as soon as possible, so that we can have access to the port of Bar. We must have an alternative port, particularly for Tuzla, because at this point it is much easier to reach Bar by rail from Tuzla than Ploce. Tuzla cannot start with its chemicals complex without a railroad link.

[Udovicic] Lately there have been views that the implementation of agreements between the two countries would go well, but that there could also be obstructions by the Serb Republic, because a normalization of relations is not in its interest.

[Muratovic] To tell you the truth, we expect no such problems, because the Serb Republic also needs to open up to the Federation. We have made and signed a financial turnover arrangement with the Serb Republic, so it is already possible to effect payments through the financial turnover administration. This has not really started working just yet, so that people who have business transactions with the Serb Republic, still have to pay through barter arrangements or in cash. But on the Federation and Serb Republic state level we have made an agreement in the presence of the High Representative. We expect that this economic exchange will begin and be stepped up. It is most certainly in the interest of the people in the Serb entity, just as much as it is in their interest to develop trade with Yugoslavia.

[Udovicic] The charges of genocide and aggression that Bosnia-Herzegovina has submitted to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague against Yugoslavia, have been seen as the main reason full diplomatic relations have not yet been established between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia. Those are serious charges and it seems to me that the process will take a long time. Is there a possibility that diplomatic relations could be established earlier?

[Muratovic] We have always talked to Yugoslavia about establishing diplomatic relations without setting any conditions. However, I am not sure that what you have mentioned is the only reason. I think that relations between Yugoslavia and the Serb Republic, as well as internal political circumstances in Serbia are reasons why Milosevic does not yet want to establish full diplomatic relations. He is probably afraid of the reactions from within Serbia to the establishment of diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina before the elections. I am positive that this will be a different story after the elections. As far as the trial is concerned, it will most probably be a long trial. Such trials are not resolved quickly, just as the process of succession will also be very lengthy.

[Udovicic] One of the most topical subjects in Bosnia-Herzegovina is its reconstruction. Several days ago Iran allocated $50 million as aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the United States has opposed this on the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

grounds that Iran, as they say, is conducting a policy of war and divisions. Are international interests clashing over Bosnia-Herzegovina in this way also?

[Muratovic] Well, first of all, I think that the statement you are referring to had not been planned (the statement made by State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns). It was, perhaps, given in haste. Perhaps Mr. Burns was not well informed. We had been asked by the Western countries at the donors conference in Brussels to provide one-third of the donations from the Islamic countries. This was almost set as a condition. We had provided the Iranian donation before the conference was held, and this donation was officially submitted at the conference itself and it can be found in the conference documents. So, this is not something new. We have recently asked Iran to step up the implementation of that aid, and we talked about the ways in which it would be supplied. No one had ever said anything about rejecting someone's donation, because these donations are part of the $1.8-billion donations project for Bosnia-Herzegovina for the first year of reconstruction. We have no intention of refusing anyone's donation, except those that set conditions, particularly political conditions.

As far as conflicting international relations over Bosnia-Herzegovina are concerned, that is the case in this context of relations between the United States and Iran. You know that they are waging a real diplomatic war against each other. In connection with this, we had certain obligations (getting rid of Mujahedins) that we took care of. In the end, everyone, including Clinton himself, confirmed this, and so he made the decision to start with the "equip and train" program.

[Udovicic] On one occasion you said that "Herzeg-Bosnia" was the greatest threat to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Can you tell us, from the point of view of the Bosniak side, what is the main problem in the functioning of the Federation in the relations between the Bosniaks and the Croats, and why are you so afraid of "Herzeg-Bosnia"?

[Muratovic] There are two problems connected with the existence of "Herzeg-Bosnia." The first is the real existence of forces, still, even in the Republic of Croatia, that wish to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into two parts, one part that would be added to Serbia, and one that would be added to Croatia. These are forces that feel that such an objective can be accomplished through "Herzeg-Bosnia." Its real name is the Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. It is a complete parastate system that functions, ranging from income and budget, to police and army, etc. The second real reason that "Herzeg-Bosnia" exists are the Herzegovian mafia and war profiteers who have made a huge profit with the help of "Herzeg-Bosnia," and who are still making a lot of money. They still control the border with Croatia. We have no access to the border, except in Bihac. The same people, that were on the borders during the war and all that you read about them having worked in humanitarian organizations, and foreign companies, and our own companies, are still there today, on the same border, making money. To be sure, officially they are making money for the Federation, because the customs authorities have been transferred to the Federation to avoid conflict, in the hope that the Federation will penetrate to the border. However, this was never really made to function and those same people are still controlling the border. They have their own system of courts, their own police, their own tax system. They function within the Federation as a parastate and we have now decided to do away with that. We are conducting a big diplomatic campaign in the world to reach a final solution—whether "Herzeg-Bosnia" will be abolished or not. If it is not abolished, we will have to seek some other solution.

Their mafia is wrapping it all up into a political packing. They say that they are protecting the Croats, that they are afraid of majorization. All of the people that are saying that have large houses on the coast, in Zagreb, and in other countries of the world. That is no secret at all. Those are people that control the black market, who inflict great damage on Croatia as well. They deal with everything, especially expensive merchandise such as cigarettes, spirits, drugs.... That merchandise goes into Bosnia, then comes out of Bosnia tax free, and then it goes back to Croatia and perhaps into other parts of the world. We do not know what happens to it afterward. That is the real problem of "Herzeg-Bosnia." There is not a single part of the territory under the control of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] where the laws of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina or the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina are respected. We have agreed to share authority, provided "Herzeg-Bosnia" is abolished. We even gave the Croats the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but nothing has changed in "Herzeg-Bosnia." So now, we are sharing government in the territory controlled by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, where we used to have exclusive control, and they have retained control in "Herzeg-Bosnia." That is the real problem.

[Udovicic] You said that you had another solution if "Herzeg-Bosnia" was not abolished. Did you mean the creation of three national republics within Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Muratovic] No. We will never allow such a thing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Federation is the only solution for both the Croats and Bosniaks who live in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is also an excellent solution

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

for our neighbors whose countrymen are living here. That means Serbia and Croatia. What we accomplished in Dayton was the absolute maximum. We can go no further than that, but if "Herzeg-Bosnia" is not abolished in this way, we will think of other ways in which it can be abolished. Herzeg-Bosnia must vanish. That is the decision of all those that support the Federation, that is the decision of all those that signed the Dayton agreement, and that is an obligation for us within Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Udovicic] A few days ago marked the first anniversary of the crimes committed in Srebrenica. At its most recent session, the Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina proclaimed the responsibility of the international community for all that happened there. You even said that there was concrete evidence against the officials and officers of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], who had given up Srebrenica in exchange for the UN hostages. Will the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina submit formal charges?

[Muratovic] First of all, the greatest guilt lies on Serbia and Karadzic's army. But the international community is directly responsible for allowing them to do what they did in Srebrenica. We have proved without a doubt that Yasushi Akashi and Janvier sold Srebrenica in exchange for the liberation of the UN soldiers that Karadzic's army was holding as hostages to prevent the bombing of an ammunitions depot near Pale. Therefore, they are directly guilty, because they allowed Mladic to kill 8 or 9 thousand people. We will request a hearing of Akashi, Janvier, and Ghali by The Hague Tribunal and by the UN Security Council. We will also press charges against the United Nations for damages caused to the people and the state, because that zone was protected and guaranteed by the United Nations.

[Udovicic] The elections are approaching. There were accusations from the Croat and Serb side that the Bosnian Government preferred a status quo and that this was why it was insisting so much on the full and strict fulfillment of the conditions for the elections.

[Muratovic] The Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina would like to see the elections implemented at the earliest possible time. The reason is very simple. According to the Dayton agreement, Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be constituted before the elections. Most of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government institutions are illegal, because they had been created during the war. And besides, the tenure of most of these government institutions, from the local level upwards, has long expired. Local authority is exercised by people who had come to power during the war. Serbs, i.e., the Serb Republic, have no part in the government until the holding of the elections. So you see, the elections are extremely important for us. They are essential, and we are doing everything to facilitate the elections, although there are no conditions at all for fair elections. We cannot organize any kind of campaign on the territories held by the Serbs and the HVO. Also, abroad the preparations for the elections are not very good.... In any case, we want the elections to be held in the interests of creating a state on the basis of the peace agreement.

[Udovicic] Most people say that it is difficult to predict, but still, I ask you, how do you see the development of the situation after the elections. Will Bosnia succeed in overcoming all internal and external difficulties?

[Muratovic] Listen, first you have to know that it is impossible to divide Bosnia, that it will never be divided, and if the international community had wanted to divide it, it would have done so in 1992 and 1993. Influential forces in the world believe that Bosnia should remain within its historical borders and that is why it has remained undivided. I predict the following course of events. As far as global policy is concerned, NATO will retain its presence in Bosnia. The world will never again allow the borders of Bosnia to change. Five years of war in the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia have not changed the original existing borders by a single inch. And that is proof that the international community will not allow a single border in Europe to be to changed by force. We will become a part of the European Union for sure. Perhaps of NATO as well, and that will cement the security of Bosnia-Herzegovina within its borders. I expect very significant changes, first in the establishment of the Federation. There will still be problems and certain interim systems in territories under the control of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the HVO. But it is certain that in time, the positive pro-Bosnian forces will prevail. Herzegovina will long remain economically dependent on Croatia, perhaps forever, but it was like this even in the time of communism. The remaining part of the Croats are Bosnia-oriented and they will be loyal citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina and will become an active part of its democratic parliamentary life.

As for the Serb Republic, it too, just like the present representatives of "Herzeg-Bosnia," will no doubt obstruct both the Presidency and the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. That will be a very great problem. Until the next elections, decisions will be made with great difficulty. But I expect that the next elections will be held very soon.... In two years, according to Dayton, but I think perhaps even sooner.

I believe that in the meantime, many followers of Karadzic and his policy will have changed in the Serb

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Republic. I believe that democratic forces there will strengthen and that a real parliamentary democracy will be established. I believe that people will prevail there who will work toward creating the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, with a high autonomy for the Serb Republic and high cantonal autonomy in the Federation, as conceived by the Dayton agreement, because the Federation will begin to function only when its cantons begin to function. Therefore, I expect that first we have to make strong cantons, and only then can we make the Federation. That will be absurd in itself, because it means that the Serb Republic will begin to function as an entity before the Federation. In constituting Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Federation will be a greater problem than the Serb Republic. The resistance there is very great, but there are practical things that cannot be avoided—international trade, foreign affairs, membership in international organizations, etc. Without that there can be no state and we all have to accept this, all the other things will go with problems.

B-H: Prlic Sees Federation as 'Only Possible' Solution

AU1908122896 Sarajevo NTV99 Television in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 18 Aug 96

[Interview with Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic by an unidentified correspondent in Sarajevo on the "Izmedju krajnosti" (Between Two Extremes) program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Interviewer] Here in Sarajevo you are considered to be a highly controversial individual. What does that mean? It means that the feelings of Sarajevo citizens toward you range from bitterness to justification for what you are doing, considering your position. Some consider you competent and have warm feelings towards you in spite of your [Croatian] ethnic background. How do you see your role?

[Prlic] I have read in some newspaper that I was the most controversial person in politics and the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. One prominent journalist, I cannot remember his name, commented on all this, claiming that he had been on all three sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina and, when it came to me, he said, there were a lot of people who liked me and even more perhaps who did not. However, everyone [words indistinct]. I do not want to paint life black and white. There are no people who are just good or just bad. I am the way that I am and everybody's behavior should be seen in a concrete situation, a concrete context, [words indistinct]. I cannot fall into a category. I cannot be the way that so-called good Muslims would like me. I also cannot be the way that some Croats—with whom I disagree—would like me. One who is liked by everyone should start worrying. Then he is a man without personality. One has to have a view. However, I am prepared to make compromises. Politics is the art of compromise, as is diplomacy. The same goes for the Federation. Everything that is done is a result of a compromise. One cannot expect only gains in life. Given time, a result can come for everyone. I was in business for a long time and the only good business is where everyone makes a profit.

[Interviewer] Is there hope for the Federation?

[Prlic] Yes, there is. There is no alternative to the Federation. I was recently in the United States [words indistinct]. There is absolutely no alternative to the Federation. There is no alternative for the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina and there is no separation of areas with a Croatian majority [words indistinct] nor their integration into Croatia, not in the given international circumstances. On the other hand, the world will not allow the formation of an Islamic state in the heart of Europe. One should be completely clear about this. There is a series of circumstances that should be mentioned. I have mentioned two key ones. When one takes into account the external circumstances and other factors and thinks about what the solution might be, the Federation is not the best solution, but it is the only possible one now. [passage omitted]

B-H: Silajdzic Party To Decide on Election Boycott

AU1608202496 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 16 Aug 96

[By Peter Cunliffe-Jones]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, Aug 16 (AFP)—Former Bosnian premier Haris Silajdzic said Friday his opposition party will decide next week whether to boycott Bosnia's first post-war general elections due September 14.

Silajdzic, confirmed to reporters in Copenhagen he wants to pull his Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBiH) out of the elections, saying they would do nothing to unite the country.

The former premier, viewed by Washington as a proponent of ethnic unity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Sarajevo Thursday, he was planning to withdraw from the elections.

Silajdzic quit the ruling Moslem-nationalist Party of Democratic Action (SDA) in January to form his pro-unity party.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Friday, he told reporters on a visit to Copenhagen that the SBiH leadership would meet here next week to decide on participation in the race.

The elections, which will vote in powerful new parliaments in the twin, ethnically-marked entities that make up post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina, are a "ratification of genocide," he told US officials Thursday.

He added that the central authorities to be elected at the same time are weak, and will not be properly defended by the nationalist parties that are likely to be elected but which do not have a strategic self-interest in holding the country together, US officials here reported.

The right given to people to vote where they live now rather than where they lived before the war means the "ethnic-cleansing" which forced thousands of people from their homes will be sanctified, he said.

Earlier in the week, a spokesman for the former communist Social Democratic Party (SDP) said it would pull out of the elections if it felt they were going to do nothing to unite the country. Miro Lazovic, the speaker of the Bosnian parliament, said the SDP would "run in the elections only if they can provide for a reintegration," adding he doubted this would happen. The SDP is part of a wider five-party centre-left coalition, the Unified List, favouring the re-unification of the country.

Nagorka Idrizovic, a spokeswoman for the Unified [Joint] List told AFP Friday it had still not decided on whether or not to boycott the polls. For the moment "we think it is better to insist on improving conditions, like getting equal access to the media for all parties" but the formation could decide on a boycott "any time," she added.

An official from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is running the poll, told AFP Friday that none of the parties objecting to the conditions for the poll had actually pulled out of the poll. And in the Serb entity that makes up half of post-war Bosnia, alongside the Moslem-Croat Federation, "no one" is talking of a boycott, the official said. "We're hearing a lot of talk about boycotts, but it's all vague, all conditional, nothing definite," she added.

As well as opposition parties, several international observers are concerned about the holding of the polls in a country so recently at war, where the ruling nationalist parties have done little to bring people back together.

A recent think-tank report listed some of the problems as the continued power of war criminals at large in Bosnia, the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to allow refugees to return home, crippling restrictions on media access and an abuse of voter registration.

B-H: Silajdzic Views Bosnian 'Strategy' in Foreign Relations

AU1808193096 Sarajevo NTV99 Television in Serbo-Croatian 1930 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Report] Sarajevo television carries in a "Special Program" [Specijalni program] a 30-minute interview with Haris Silajdzic, chairman of the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Mujo Delibegovic.

Delibegovic starts the program by announcing that this is the first in a series of interviews with Silajdzic on various current issues. This program deals with Bosnia-Herzegovina and foreign relations.

His first question to Silajdzic refers to the elements that determine Bosnia-Herzegovina strategic interests in foreign relations. Silajdzic says that "this primarily depends on the level of interaction between our interests and the interests of the international community. At the moment this is interaction at a very high level. We are economically and politically very limited by the influence of the so-called foreign factor, and we have to be constantly aware of that. Therefore, our strategy has to lie primarily in opening to the world, not in isolation. We have to open to the world."

Asked on which foreign countries Bosnia-Herzegovina's survival and development depends primarily, Silajdzic says that "this depends on many factors, but the most important element now is that we must not be left on the margins of Europe. By the end of the century, Europe will be united into one market, a market of some 400 million consumers." He says that "it is, to a degree, up to us how we will develop our strategy toward the EU. Our relations have to be based first of all on the global approach, that is, on the United Nations and other international organizations. This is globally. Then there is the regional approach, involving EU and subregional relations, such as the states of Central Europe, and so on." He then speaks of his mandate as foreign minister, and the international organizations that, at that time, accepted Bosnia-Herzegovina as a member country.

Asked whether he is satisfied with the current state of affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina's foreign relations, Silajdzic says that he is "not satisfied with the situation particularly because of the negative selection of professionals. We now have grave difficulties in cooperation with the world since in some spheres there simply is no cooperation. I, for example, cannot understand that we do not have a single diplomat in charge of trade relations with Germany, while at the same time we expect so

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

much from that country. After all, Germany will provide the funds for a lot, and we have half a million people there, and not one man in charge of trade relations." He mentions relations with the Far East, saying that "we do not have an ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, in Jakarta, in Islamabad. We do not have an ambassador in Cairo. The representatives of these countries are amazed at our approach, knowing where our interests lie, and knowing that, during the war, we managed to establish good relations with these countries. Now, in peacetime, we are so passive in that sphere, we seem self-sufficient. Well, we are, of course, far from being self-sufficient. Therefore in a strategic approach, we have NATO and the EU, and outside that we have Group 77, the developing world, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]. So, if we have a relative advantage when it comes to foreign cooperation, then it is in the Islamic countries. Of course, we have credit elsewhere, too. However, an integral Bosnia with all its nations incorporated into it, a reintegrated Bosnia, can stretch from West to East, and that is where its relative advantage lies." Silajdzic then elaborates on the global situation when war first broke out in Bosnia-Herzegovina, his efforts as foreign minister to obtain international support for the country, and the "poor quality" of Bosnia-Herzegovina diplomatic representatives at the moment.

Delibegovic asks Silajdzic how he, and the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina view the current situation, and whether his party has a program for foreign relations. Silajdzic says that "I have not mentioned the party in anything I have said so far, since we alone cannot do much. This is about the state, about state interests, and the assumption is that we are all approaching the issue from the point of view of the development and prosperity of the state. That cannot be done by one party alone. We have to have a state program. After the elections we all have to sit down and come up with a good program for the creation of a professional structure. We cannot do without that. I assure you that 90 percent of the effort, when it comes to Bosnia-Herzegovina foreign cooperation, depends on that. We now do not have the people to send to international conferences, since they do not speak two to three languages as their foreign colleagues do. We will have that eventually, when this generation has completed its education. Now we do not have them. We have to create a professional structure rapidly. We cannot just have politically correct people in terms of party membership. As far as I am concerned, every patriot who is committed to Bosnia-Herzegovina is politically correct. As for party membership, I do not care as long as the person is competent. So if the person is competent in his profession and is for Bosnia-Herzegovina, he can be from any party whatsoever, that is his choice." He says "this does not only refer to foreign relations, which is the topic today. This is also about the creation of democratic institutions, which we will have to work on in the decade to come. Regardless of whether we are speaking of international relations or internal relations, one cannot do much without a good professional structure. At the moment it is very modest, to say the least, and is impeding our relations with the world." He says that "there are many competent people here who are not working in their own field of expertise, who have been marginalized, simply because of this political correctness, that is, because they are not members of the right party."

B-H: SMP Candidates Meet Christopher in Sarajevo

AU1608165096 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by Radovan Brankov from Banja Luka]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the regular news conference held by the Alliance for Peace and Progress [SMP] in Banja Luka today, journalists were presented exclusive news. SMP representatives—Milorad Dodik and Dr. Mladen Ivanic, SMP candidate for Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency—met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo yesterday at his request. During the brief talks, opinions were exchanged about the upcoming elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serb Republic. SMP representatives insisted that the election should be held on the planned date, despite pressure exerted by most parties in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation for its postponement.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher agreed with the SMP stand and emphasized the need for ensuring a peaceful and democratic atmosphere in the coming month before the election. Both sides agreed about the need to have the media be more open for fair and correct elections.

B-H: Opposition, Christopher Discuss Election Conditions

AU1608183696 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Warren Christopher and his aides yesterday held a joint meeting with Ivo Komsic, Mladen Ivanic, Haris Silajdzic, Milorad Dodik, and Sejfudin Tokic. The meeting was also attended by Robert Frowick, head of the OSCE mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The topics of discussion were the elections and the conditions for holding elections.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The representatives of the opposition from both entities demanded that conditions be created for the political promotion of opposition parties and free and equal access to the media.

Ivo Komsic, Haris Silajdzic, and Sejfudin Tokic demanded that the registration of voters who were (?given permission) to vote in their temporary place of abode be annulled. This registration represents an exception in the Dayton agreement that has unfortunately been turned into a rule, the statement issued by the Press Center of the Joint List of Bosnia-Herzegovina points out.

B-H: Ganic Says 'High-Level' FRY Delegation To Visit Sarajevo

AU1608134096 Belgrade DNEVNI TELEGRAF in Serbo-Croatian 16 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report on statement by Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina; place and date not given: "Yugoslavia's High Representatives Are Coming to Sarajevo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo—"The meeting in Geneva was very useful, because we have agreed with the delegations of Croatia and FRY on issues that are important for the continuation of cooperation," Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, stated for DNEVNI TELEGRAF.

"We have agreed with the Yugoslav delegation and Slobodan Milosevic that the next step in the normalization of relations will be a high-level official visit to Sarajevo by representatives of Yugoslavia. For the time being, what remains to be agreed is the date of the visit, a date that will suit both sides. Yugoslav businessmen could come to Sarajevo as early as next week, because we are very interested in purchasing goods from Yugoslavia in order to force down the current prices in Sarajevo. At the meeting, we did not discuss the arrest and extradition of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic to the tribunal in The Hague," Ganic said.

B-H: Official on Implementing Agreement To Disband Herzeg-Bosnia

AU1808194796 Sarajevo NTV99 Television in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 17 Aug 96

[Interview with Mirza Hajric, foreign relations adviser at the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, by Munevera Hodzic in Sarajevo on the "Oko 22" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hodzic] After the Geneva agreement on the dissolution of the so-called Herzeg-Bosnia, concrete steps are being undertaken in Sarajevo as of last night on the implementation of this idea. To find out more about this topic, we managed to get Mr. Mirza Hajric, adviser for foreign relations in the Presidency, as our guest in tonight's program.

Good evening and welcome to our program.

[Hajric] Good evening to you and your viewers.

[Hodzic] I suppose you have had a very difficult day.

[Hajric] It was very difficult in Geneva two days ago. In the meantime, we have had many other things to take care of.

[Hodzic] Last night something important happened, an event that deserves analysis. Our viewers will probably say that we should have brought in someone from the Federation. We wanted someone like that but none of them could come due to other obligations. However, our guest tonight will be able to tell us more about all this. So, last night an agreement was signed as the first concrete step toward the implementation of the Geneva agreement. Can you tell us more about this?

[Hajric] This is a two-step operation in principle. The process started in Geneva and has been completed in Sarajevo. In Geneva our president Alija Izetbegovic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman signed a document stipulating that Herzeg-Bosnia will cease to exist on 31 August. This document says that the president and vice president of the Federation and the Bosnia-Herzegovina prime minister will, in Sarajevo one day after that document is signed, sign an agreement with a set of very concrete additional measures and obligations to be undertaken by 31 August, which will enable the dissolution, that is, that incorporation of the institutions of Herzeg-Bosnia into the Government of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Hodzic] This agreement is very detailed. I will insist on asking you exactly what has to be done as a first step in the dissolution of Herzeg-Bosnia, if you have that information.

[Hajric] I have to say that one part of the statement signed in Sarajevo yesterday clearly states that a special group will be formed to work urgently on concrete measures to specify how the Herzeg-Bosnia institutions will be transferred into the Federation's institutions. This work has not been finalized. What has been achieved by the Sarajevo statement signed yesterday is that President Zubak, Vice President Ganic, and Prime Minister Muratovic are absolutely determined that the concrete plan of measures should be completed by 31 August. From the point of view of the Federation and the stability of Bosnia-Herzegovina, this is definitely the most important piece of news from yesterday's meeting.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Hodzic] When is the next meeting on the dissolution of Herzeg-Bosnia supposed to take place according to the Geneva agreement?

[Hajric] In a day of two, at the latest, high-level work will continue, and I think that the necessary measures are already being discussed at the expert level. One should not mystify this work. To be very concrete, some ministries in the Federation will make some changes since the Herzeg-Bosnia institutions and ministries will simply be transferred into them. This is an agreement that was first reached two years ago. The same has been reiterated many times since. Now, one month before the elections, I think we are not in a position to make mistakes. I think that the international community realizes this very well, and that a U.S. diplomatic maneuver has borne fruit. I think that we should insist that meetings are held every day up to 31 August between the leading politicians of both nations in the Federation so that the measures listed in the statement are implemented.

[Hodzic] Tell us, do you think all that will be done by 31 August? Has international pressure again been exerted, has a concession been made to get the so-called Herzeg-Bosnia dissolved? We know that this has been a very long, drawn-out process, getting Herzeg-Bosnia dissolved.

[Hajric] Unfortunately, you are right. I do not think one can talk about concessions. I think these are concrete measures that have to be undertaken. Of course, you have to keep in mind that perhaps as many as several hundred officials from the ranks of the Croat people will have to be transferred from Mostar, from other places in Herzeg-Bosnia, that is, from the part of the Federation under the Croat control, they will have to be transferred to Sarajevo, and some will have to be transferred to Mostar, where we have several Federation ministries. Some institutions will just change their names, as it were. In principle, when the entire job is completed, the result must be that not a single Herzeg-Bosnia institution survives beyond 31 August. We have thus achieved a goal that we have been desiring for over two years, and that is the end to dual authorities on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is clear: Where there are dual authorities, neither of them function. The Federation Government needs just one set of authorities on the entire territory. I hope that the Geneva agreement and the Sarajevo statement will achieve just that.

[Hodzic] We will see, as our people would say. Tell us, who guarantees that the agreement reached in Geneva will be implemented by 31 August. Who guarantees that? We obviously need guarantees for everything. Is it the United States again?

[Hajric] I would like us to be in a position to guarantee everything around here. Unfortunately, all the agreements that remained just a dead letter and all the unfulfilled promises have forced us to seek additional guarantees. I must say that this special group that will work on concrete measures that will lead to the dissolution of Herzeg-Bosnia as an administrative unit also includes a representative of the High Representative and a representatives from the U.S. Embassy. One has to give credit to the United States primarily, to Under Secretary of State Kornblum, who worked hard on all this, to Secretary of State Christopher, who invited the three presidents to Geneva and made a very concrete step toward the implementation of everything that had been agreed in Sarajevo over some 15 days. I think that without them none of this would have happened. At the same time, I believe that both nations in the Federation will benefit from the results. I do not think that a single citizen of the Federation should fear such results.

[Hodzic] So you believe that Herzeg-Bosnia will cease to exist on 31 August?

[Hajric] I believe that we will not get another chance. That is why I am optimistic.

[Hodzic] Do you accept the fact that you have been very passive in all this, that you did not react in time, so again you had to get someone from the side to accelerate the process? Don't you think that all this has been done too quickly just before the elections?

[Hajric] No, I do not agree with you simply because I know how hard the authorities worked toward this result. Of course, one does not need to be a great prophet or a political genius to say that it would have been better if all this had been achieved as soon as the Dayton agreement was signed, or even before, that the results of the implementation of the Federation would have been better. I think that the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government and the Presidency agreed that it had to be done before the elections. I have to say that the entire diplomatic operation started just before our delegation went to Belgrade. People are not informed about everything and some journalists jump to conclusions. The Dayton agreement stipulates that a Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation is to go to Belgrade, and that we are to establish diplomatic relations within 45 days, which unfortunately did not happen. Washington exerted great pressure on us to send a high-level diplomatic delegation to Belgrade even much sooner, but the assessment was that the timing did not suit us then, in February, March, April, or later. Let me remind you that this was during the transition period in Sarajevo, when parts of Sarajevo were burning. We were right not to go to Belgrade then. However, later the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

assessment was that it would be positive for us to go to Belgrade, that the political moment was right, and our delegation led by Dr. Ganic returned with three signed agreements.

[Hodzic] Tell us briefly, how are the agreements reached in Belgrade being implemented?

[Hajric] I think that everything is going according to plan. Another concrete result of our delegation going to Belgrade is that a Yugoslav delegation will come to Sarajevo soon.

[Hodzic] How soon is soon?

[Hajric] Before Herzeg-Bosnia is dissolved.

[Hodzic] Before Herzeg-Bosnia is dissolved? Thank you very much for this information. Dear viewers, we have tried to find out more about the process of the dissolution of Herzeg-Bosnia. I hope that we will have a chance to learn more soon. I announced earlier that we would be receiving a guest from the United States next week. Can you tell us more about this?

[Hajric] I think that Mr. (?Gelbard) will be here on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I do not have much more information about this. He is a high-ranking official of this friendly country. I had a chance to meet Mr. (?Gelbard) in February in Washington, and I was impressed by his knowledge of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I hope that this will be another visit by our friends and that he will go with positive impressions from our country.

[Hodzic] Thank you.

B-H: Croat Official Comments on Annex to Agreed Measures

LD1708194396 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our colleague Miljenko Karacic spoke to Drago Bilandzija, the head of the Croatian negotiating team, about the annex of the agreed measures signed last night and about everything else achieved so far.

[Begin recording] [Karacic] Detailed negotiations at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo have brought the first results.

[Bilandzija] [Caption: finance minister and deputy prime minister of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation] First, we have agreed that the national structure in all ministries, republican institutions, and organizations must be brought into balance. Only along these lines would the transfer of authority to ministries, administrative, and other bodies of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation be carried out.

We have defined in full the area of foreign affairs. There, we have agreed in detail that the national structure must be brought into balance. The Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina must nominate senior representatives in the diplomatic and consular offices by 10 September this year.

The area of defense has been defined along the same lines. We have set the deadlines for the definition [as heard] of the Defense Law and for the beginning of the practical implementation of the law.

[Karacic] Bilandzija adds that the annex, signed by him and Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnia-Herzegovina prime minister, defines the areas of transport and communications; reconstruction and development; agriculture, water management, and forestry; environment and urban planning; education, health, and media. All this has been agreed upon and signed.

But, there is still no signature in the area of internal affairs.

[Bilandzija] Our condition—and that is the absolute minimum we can accept—is the abolition of the Law on the Documentation Agency. We said that this law must be annulled by 31 August and thus the work of the Agency for Investigation and Documentation completely abolished.

[Karacic] There are misunderstandings in the sphere of finances—the Bosniak side is trying to put customs under the jurisdiction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Bilandzija] We cannot accept such a demand, such a stand. The federal law on customs has been endorsed, as well as all other regulations. We believe that this system has to operate on the territory of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, that is, in both entities.

[Karacic] The Bosniak media continuously claim that the Geneva agreement and last night's annex dissolve the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. The content of the signed documents, however, is completely different.

[Bilandzija] They probably have other, political, reasons to mention only the dissolution of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia and omit to mention the transfer of state powers from the ministries and government of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, and the simultaneous transfer of powers and competencies from the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the ministries and government of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation.

[Karacic] Bilandzija adds that the Croat side has both the political will and strength to implement what has been signed before the set deadline. Will the Bosniak

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

side do the same? It has been casual about several signed agreements so far, so this [implementation of the agreed] still remains to be seen.

In any case, it is much clearer to the international community that the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia does not present an obstacle to the functioning of the federation. Something else does, something that the Bosniak side finds difficult to admit on the eve of the elections in September. [end recording]

B-H: Herzeg-Bosnia's Integration Into Federation Examined

AU1908092196 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE (Bosnian) in Serbo-Croatian 10 Aug 96 p 4

[Article by H. Arifagic: "Seal at Stake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Herzeg-Bosnia ministry for energy, mining, and industry has almost fully been reintegrated into the corresponding ministry within the Federation. It has given up its seal to the Ministry of the Interior in order for it to be destroyed. The minister of the Herzeg-Bosnia ministry for energy, mining, and industry, Marinko Bosnjak, gave his approval for the acceptance of workers into the Federation ministry. He personally agreed to be the counselor to Federal Minister Enver Kresa.

"The remaining tasks related to the reintegration are being fulfilled without problems. Not one letter of the agreed obligations is disputable," Munib Usanovic, assistant to the Federal Bosnia-Herzegovina minister for energy, mining, and industry, told OSLOBODJENJE. He especially emphasized the great cooperation of Perica Jukic, the deputy Federal minister.

According to available information, this ministry has made the greatest progress in annulling the bodies of "Herzeg-Bosnia." Minister Enver Kresa already signed a comprehensive resolution to employ 29 workers from the Herzeg-Bosnia ministry. Their positions within the Federal ministry have been decided upon, their work permits taken care of, a list of salaries paid has been made, etc. Also, 37 percent of those currently employed in this Federal ministry are Croat.

"The two key tasks that will be fulfilled in the next two days are the listing and the adoption of the property, as well as the integration of the Mostar electric company [elektroprivreda] into a united public company, the Bosnia-Herzegovina electric company," Usanovic explained.

This will also speed up the clarification of issues toward passing the law on the electric industry, as well as the law on the inspection of electric and thermal energy (as laws within the spheres of activity), and the law on the chamber of commerce. There are, of course, a few other small administrational obligations that need to be taken care of (individual decisions regarding the positions of workers, etc.), but these issues are not so important that they would be able to stop the work that has been started successfully.

The people from Minister Kresa's cabinet received valid resolutions regarding their own positions only one month ago. This had, to a certain degree, slowed down the fulfillment of the obligations that the ministry had taken over after the united government of the Republic/ Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina had been divided into two.

From the experiences of this ministry, one can get the impression that the general problem of the reintegration of Herzeg-Bosnia into the Federation is also the fact that the Federation does not yet have a law on the coat of arms and seal. This issue has been the topic of discussion between the Bosniaks and Croats for months.

"If we had a seal with a common coat of arms, then we would have a much easier time working on the reintegration," Munib Usanovic believes.

According to the Dayton agreement, the headquarters of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry for Energy, Mining, and Industry, as well as the headquarters of some other ministries, are supposed to be in Mostar. When asked as to what extent this obligation has been fulfilled, he answered that they are waiting for the final instructions from the government.

"Our people are now in Mostar and we are in contact with them daily, not only by telephone, but also by visiting Mostar (from Sarajevo) and vice versa," said Munib Usanovic, the assistant to the Federal Bosnia-Herzegovina minister for energy, mining, and industry.

B-H: Bildt Threatens Local SDS Over Karadzic Posters

AU1808133896 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, Aug 18 (AFP)— International envoy Carl Bildt has threatened a ban on the main Serb party in the Serb-held Zvornik region of eastern Bosnia if posters of war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic are not removed, a spokesman said Sunday.

Bildt on Saturday told the mayor of Zvornik, Jovan Mitrovic, and the president of the local branch of the hardline Serb Democratic Party (SDS), Stevo Radic, that posters showing Karadzic had to be removed from all public places by Monday, spokesman Duncan Bullivant said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The former Swedish premier, who undertook a tour of eastern Bosnia Saturday, told the men that if they were not removed he would ask for the organisation overseeing Bosnia's elections to ban the ruling Serb party from participating in the election in the Zvornik region, the spokesman added.

Karadzic was forced one month ago to resign as leader of the party and president of the Serb-held part of Bosnia and was obliged to agree to drop out of political life.

Under that arrangement, negotiated by US envoy Richard Holbrooke, Karadzic posters were supposed to disappear from public places in eastern Bosnia.

Karadzic's political influence has since "vastly diminished" Bullivant said, adding that posters still had to be removed and that Karadzic's "physical presence" in Bosnia meant the indicted war criminal would still exert some influence.

During his trip through eastern Bosnia, Bildt discussed with local Serb officials the preparations for the September 14 vote, Bullivant said.

"We told them they should expect people to come into their municipalities, displaced people from the Moslem-Croat federation and from Serbia, and they should do everything to see that these people can come and vote" he said.

One of the towns visited was Srebrenica, the former Moslem-majority enclave overrun by Serb forces in July last year, Bullivant said.

B-H: IFOR Troops Break Into 'Illegal' Serb Arms Depot

AU1808133496 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Margetici, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 18 (AFP)—Dozens of French and Italian NATO troops, backed by heavy security, Sunday broke into an unauthorised Bosnian Serb arms depot here and prepared to destroy the illegal weapons. In their biggest such operation since coming to Bosnia in December, some 1,500 to 2,000 troops of the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) have taken control of the area around Margetici, where the unauthorised arms depot was found earlier this month.

The Bosnian Serb army, in statements released to Serb media, slammed the destruction of the weapons as a "provocation" which could have "dangerous" consequences and said the contested depot was authorised.

That was flatly refuted by IFOR.

Under the Dayton peace accord, signed in December, the former warring forces were obliged to declare all their arms and move them to declared weapons sites authorised by IFOR.

IFOR has authorised more than 700 military sites for all three of Bosnia's former warring factions, but the Margetici depot, a two-story whitewashed former school beside the road from Sokolac to Han Pijesak was not one, IFOR said in a statement. "The site was never authorised by IFOR and would not have qualified as an ammunition depot since it is located in a populated area and near a busy highway" frequently used by passenger vehicles, the statement said.

IFOR was determined to "destroy the weapons" and would not harm the school, an IFOR spokesman said.

The commander of IFOR ground forces, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker rushed up to Pale, the Serb political stronghold outside Sarajevo, Sunday to meet with top Serbs. Walker visited Serb army headquarters with top Serb Biljana Plavsic Thursday and had already informed the Serb leadership of the operation, which was to "reinforce the IFOR mission and mandate," NATO spokesman Major Brett Boudreau said.

The IFOR operation, code-named Operation Volcano, began Saturday when IFOR troops took control of the area, set up a camp and started clearing and de-mining two sites where the illegal weapons are to be destroyed.

The depot where the weapons were found lies on a high-altitude plain of rolling green hills dotted with houses and small woody copses.

IFOR troops, mostly French and Italian but including troops from all the IFOR divisional areas, have set up camps with trucks, tanks and armoured vehicles to allow them to undertake the delicate operation of destroying the vast amount of ammunition. IFOR estimates the total store at 300 tonnes of equipment including rockets and some 5,700 boxes of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines.

The dispute over the depot—which was discovered accidentally by IFOR troops on August 9—appeared to point to differences between Plavsic, who told Serb television she would not stop the operation, and the Serb army command, which protested vigorously. Plavsic told Serb television she had had to admit to IFOR that the weapons site was unauthorised but the Bosnian Serb army disputed this.

Walker warned in a statement: "The irresponsible threats made by certain VRS (Bosnian Serb) officers are calculated to raise ill feeling and unease among the Bosnian Serb population," Walker was quoted as saying by the IFOR statement. "This is not a crisis and the VRS should not try to raise it to one."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A NATO official, who asked not to be named, said he believed that the Serb statements were simply for domestic consumption. It was perfectly possible the Serbs had other such unauthorised sites hidden around the country, he added.

The destruction of the weapons would take place for most of this week at two specifically chosen locations well away from population centres, IFOR said.

B-H: Plavsic: No Consent Given To Destroy Munitions Dump

LD1708213596 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2055 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 17 Aug (SRNA)—Biljana Plavsic, Serb vice president and acting president of the Serb Republic, said this evening that the Serb leadership had not given its consent to IFOR [Implementation Force] to destroy an ammunition dump in the village of Margetici near Sokolac.

Plavsic said that leaflets being distributed by IFOR to the local population, which say that the Serb leadership had given its consent for the destruction of the dump, had "political implications."

She had talks in Pale today with General Michael Walker, the commander of the IFOR land forces, when she drew his attention to all the consequences that this action may have for the overall political situation before the elections, but Gen. Walker persisted in destroying the ammunition dump.

"I have explained to Gen. Walker that it would not be wise to do something like that before the elections. However, he did not accept my suggestion saying that the mechanism of the entire action has already been put in motion," Plavsic explained.

She recalled that IFOR had been notified about the existence of the dump, but that the dump had never been authorized, despite negotiations between IFOR and the Serb Republic Army.

B-H: Serb Army Criticizes IFOR Action on Munitions Dump

LD1808002396 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2310 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 16 Aug (SRNA)—The information service of the Main Headquarters of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic Army (GS VRS) issued a statement tonight in connection with the events in the village of Margetici near Sokolac. SRNA carries the full text of the statement:

"On Friday, 17 August 1996, around 0800 [0600 GMT] IFOR [Implementation Force] blocked the wider area of the ammunition dump of the Serb Republic Army (VRS) at the village of Margetici near Sokolac with some 150 armored vehicles. The blockade covers all access roads to the town of Sokolac.

"IFOR has been distributing leaflets to the local population, informing it of the preparations for the destruction of the ammunition in the village of Margetici. This open threat of using force made by the IFOR command, for which the VRS had not given the slightest reason, represents a very dangerous provocation, thus inviting unnecessary incidents and is a threat to further implementation of the Dayton peace agreement. This latest threat of force made by the IFOR command has come after a successful several-months-old implementation of the military aspect of the Dayton agreement by the VRS, something that the most responsible IFOR commanders have repeatedly publicly confirmed.

"The ammunition dump in Margetici is legal, its existence was reported on 19 March, in line with the military part of the Dayton agreement, according to the Annex 1A, Article 4, Paragraph 5A. The site was chosen after last year's NATO strikes against all the important VRS dumps in this area. A huge quantity of mine explosive devices of substantial material value has been stored here, and the site is situated at a distance of 21 km from the border between the Serb Republic and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation.

"Those are exclusively defensive weapons whose quantity is not limited by the [Dayton] agreement and do not represent a threat to IFOR forces, the other side, or anyone else. That is why there is no need to apply force, unless the intention is to create a provocation and is a commitment to use force in the future. On 5 August, the IFOR forces attempted suddenly, without any previous announcement, to transport mine explosive devices to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation territory, to their base at Rajlovac. A spontaneous gathering of people prevented this.

"The authorized IFOR representatives and GS VRS met on 6 August and agreed that IFOR would carry out additional authorization of the dump. The agreed inspection was carried out on 7 August when the IFOR representatives said that the inspection was successful and the site legal. Also, on 11 August a repeated inspection of the site was carried out, and the IFOR head of the inspection had no complaints. " On 16 August, General Michael Walker sent a letter to Biljana Plavsic, the vice president and the acting president of the Serb Republic. In this letter, Gen. Walker demands that the Military Command coordinates and cooperates

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with IFOR forces in the destruction of the dump in Margetici. On 16 August, the authorized GS VRS representative met the IFOR command liaison officers and demanded that this case be resolved in line with the previous agreement and without use of force. Today, on 17 August 1996, Gen. Walker met Biljana Plavsic to discuss the case of the Margetici dump.

"The correspondence and meeting with Biljana Plavsic are being carried out without the knowledge and presence of the GS VRS, who has not been informed about them. This represents an attempt to create divisions between the state leadership and GS VRS. It also represents an attempt to apply the method of force in the further implementation of the Dayton agreement.

"Such steps and the possible realization of the IFOR threats would inflict huge damage both to the successful implementation of the Dayton agreement and to the interests of the Serb people, its defense, and its Army.

"GS VRS has not made one single step that would contribute to the creation of an explosive situation between IFOR and VRS. On the contrary, it has done everything so the agreement could be implemented in line with the obligations that have been undertaken.

"We are satisfied with the results reached so far, especially with the fact that no resident of the Serb Republic, a member of the VRS, or a member of IFOR have lost their lives.

"GS VRS does not wish to take part in any activities that would inflict damage upon the people, the defense, and VRS; and does not wish to cooperate in the destruction of its own mine explosive devices. We do not wish to share any part of the responsibility for unforeseeable consequences that would inevitably follow in the future implementation of the agreement if IFOR starts using destructive methods and force.

"GS VRS expresses its conviction that the case of the Margetici dump can be resolved in a positive way if all the players want peace in this region, just as the Serb people want peace."

B-H: IFOR Operation Seen as Cover for Federation Problems

LD1808185996 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With no cooperation from the Serb Republic army, IFOR [Implementation Force] troops today entered the ammunition depot in the village of Margetici near Sokolac. Despite the assurances from the Serb Republic state and military leadership that this operation is unnecessary and [word indistinct] heightened risks, IFOR troops have began transferring the ammunition found in the depot. The depot, that has been targeted by IFOR for the second time in the past two weeks, is 21 km from the state border between the Serb Republic and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Are not these operations designed to undermine the coming parliamentary elections in view of all the problems in evidence in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which are not conducive to the successful outcome of the September elections?

B-H: Serb Leadership 'Not Satisfied' With IFOR Talks

LD1808213696 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1847 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 18 Aug (SRNA)—Biljana Plavsic, the vice president and acting president of the Serb Republic, and People's Assembly Speaker Momcilo Krajisnik held talks in Pale today with General Michael Walker, the commander of IFOR [Implementation Force] ground forces, on the political resolution to problems related to the Serb army's depot in the village of Margetici near Sokolac.

The meeting, which was also attended by Gen. William Carter III, chief of staff of IFOR headquarters in Sarajevo, was convened at the request of the leadership of the Serb Republic in order to find a political solution to IFOR's insistence on destroying the mines and explosives of the Serb army stored at the depot in Margetici.

Dr. Plavsic discussed the problem with Gen. Walker yesterday, too, and informed the deputies in the People's Assembly, which was in session in Pale, on the current situation.

The leadership of the Serb Republic is not satisfied with the talks with senior IFOR representatives so far and with their decision to destroy the depot, because it was duly registered with IFOR, in keeping with the Dayton agreement. The decision to destroy the depot and the removal of the ammunition IFOR is carrying out at the moment is assessed as inexplicable, particularly because it represents a violation of and a departure from the Dayton agreement, despite the insistence of IFOR's generals to the contrary.

The representatives of the Serb Republic have not so far met with understanding on the part of IFOR in the talks and they are concerned about possible consequences of such behavior. They also assess that IFOR's actions jeopardize peace in the region and the good relations the international forces have previously had with the leadership of the Serb Republic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

IFOR's troops have been removing the mines and explosives stored in Margetici today. They intend to destroy them in the next few days even though the Serb leadership has not given its consent, as Dr. Plavsic said yesterday.

B-H: IFOR Begins Serb Munitions Dump Destruction at Sokolac

LD1908093596 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 0840 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As scheduled and despite Bosnian Serb criticism, Operation "Volcano," which will see to the destruction of 300 tonnes of Bosnian Serb Army ammunition and mines in an unauthorized dump at Sokolac, 46 km from Sarajevo, started this morning.

Destruction of the explosives will take about a week. Ammunition and mines are being exploded underground in order to lessen the effect of the explosions. Around 2,000 IFOR [Implementation Force] soldiers are taking part in the operation, including hundreds of Italian soldiers.

B-H: Plavsic Calls For Release of POW's

LD1708201396 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After her talks with Robert Frowick [head of OSCE mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina] Biljana Plavsic, the [Bosnian] Serb Republic vice president and acting president of the Serb Republic, today also met General Michael Walker, the commander of the IFOR [Implementation Force] land forces, and U.S. Ambassador John Menzies.

[Begin Plavsic recording] What is important in all these meetings is that we have drawn their attention to the points in which they are violating the Dayton agreement. We have been persistently reminding them of 19 January, which was the deadline for the release of all POW's. Gen. Walker and Amb. Menzies today asked for a list of Serb POW's.

In all these contacts we will make efforts toward complying with the deadline that should have been observed a long time ago. With this kind of delay, this no longer represents a political issue, this is a humanitarian issue that has a tremendous impact on the period before the elections. They are very interested to know whether the elections will be democratic and so on. We have tried to explain to them that everything would be better if there were no unresolved issues from 19 January. [end recording]

U.S. Amb. John Menzies declined to make any statements after the meeting today.

B-H: Pale Denies Klickovic Obstructing Work of Joint Bodies

LD1708164296 Pale Srpska Radio-Televizija First Program Serb Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Further to the statement by Colum Murphy, spokesman for the office of High Representative Carl Bildt, that Serb Prime Minister Gojko Klickovic bears the responsibility for the failure at the 11 August meeting in Sarajevo, at which further exhumation of war victims should have been discussed, the government of the Serb Republic has issued the following public statement:

The statement by Mr. Murphy about the alleged obstruction by the Serb Republic prime minister absolutely contradicts the truth and cannot contribute to further work of the state commission of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation and the Serb Republic on the extremely difficult and sensitive issue of missing persons and the exhumation of war victims in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

First of all, the agreement reached at a meeting at the seat of the Serb Republic's government in Pale between Michael Steiner, the deputy to the high representative, and members of the government of the Serb Republic—Vice President Velibor Ostojic, Health Minister Dragan Kalinic, and Dragan Bulajic, chairman of the State Commission for Exchange of POW's—has not been respected.

The statement recalls that the Serb side has insisted for several reasons on holding the next meeting as soon as possible so that an agreement on this issue can be signed, but on neutral ground—Geneva was proposed as a possible venue and top level officials representing both entities, such as presidents or vice presidents of the governments and representatives of the international community and the humanitarian organizations.

This was not carried out, and instead the meeting was convened in Sarajevo, which is to say on the territory of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, whose media openly report that a warrant for the arrest of the prime minister of the Serb Republic has been issued, and that he should be immediately arrested. Despite this, the Serb side accepted the invitation from Sarajevo and wanted to send the chairman of the state commission for exchange and the assistant minister of the appropriate ministry of the government of the Serb Republic. However, the meeting was cancelled without explanation, although there were many operational tasks that should have been urgently resolved.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Plavsic Promises To Contribute to 'Successful' Elections

LD1608164196 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1509 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sarajevo, 16 Aug (SRNA)—Biljana Plavsic, vice president and acting president of the Serb Republic, held talks in Pale today with Iqbal Riza, special envoy of the UN secretary general, on the forthcoming elections in the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim federation.

They agreed that everything should be done for the elections to take place peacefully and without tensions. Plavsic said that all the relevant institutions are involved in creating a positive atmosphere and taking preventive measures on the day of the elections, which, in her opinion, "will be crucial."

Expressing her satisfaction with Riza's visit, Plavsic said that "the political leadership of the Serb Republic will take part in all activities and will involve all institutions which might contribute to successful elections." [passage omitted]

The police forces of the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim federation will be responsible for the safety of voters, and their representatives offered necessary guarantees to carry this out, the special envoy for the UN secretary general said.

B-H: AFP: Karadzic Reportedly Attends Party Meetings

AU1808140096 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 18 Aug 96

[By Peter Cunliffe-Jones]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 18 (AFP)—One month after he was supposed to disappear from public life, ousted Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is neither gone nor forgotten in this Serb stronghold outside Sarajevo.

According to informed Serb sources in Pale, Karadzic, the 52-year-old poet-turned-psychiatrist who led the war drive to set up a Serb state in Bosnia-Hercegovina, has not stopped work since he "stepped down" in mid-July.

Nor, here at least, do most Serbs believe he has really changed his role.

"The president?" said a cheery Serb in this balmy former ski village outside the Bosnian capital, asked this weekend to identify his head of state. "Why, Radovan Karadzic of course."

Under the deal signed a month ago by Karadzic and witnessed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Karadzic quit as Serb "president" and party leader and agreed to keep out of politics and the media. Karadzic was replaced as president by Biljana Plavsic and as party leader by Aleksa Buha.

Karadzic's political influence has been "vastly diminished" by the agreement, a spokesman for international envoy Carl Bildt said Sunday. Politically, he is vastly diminished," said Duncan Bullivant, adding: "Obviously, his mere physical presence in Bosnia is still going to exert some influence."

The evidence of that influence comes in reports from Serb sources, unwilling to provide details, that Karadzic is still attending party meetings and setting the agenda with the top politicians in Pale. And until recently, Karadzic's face has still been regularly shown on Serb television.

Since his days as an international figure, dining and negotiating in western capitals during the early stages of the war, Karadzic's power has "definitely taken a knock," a western diplomat said here. He is influential in his own backyard, but not much more than that, said the diplomat, who declined to be named. [passage omitted]

US envoy Richard Holbrooke had told a US television station days earlier Kornblum was coming to persuade them to force Karadzic to leave his base here. If so, "he failed," a Serb source close to the Serb authorities in Pale said Sunday. [passage omitted]

B-H: Krasijnik Denounces OSCE Decision To Penalize Serb Party

LD1608141696 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1121 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sarajevo, 16 Aug (SRNA)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the Serb Republic People's Assembly, held talks in Pale this morning with Wolfgang Ischinger, political adviser to the Bundestag. They discussed the implementation of the Dayton agreement and Germany's role in resolving the crisis in the territory of the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim Federation.

Speaker Krajisnik said after the meeting that Ischinger and he had exchanged opinions on many issues, referring mainly to the implementation of the Dayton agreement, in which the Germans are very interested because their state has an active role in finding a political solution to the crisis in the area.

"We said that we expected Germany to have a more active role because Germany is an important player in Europe and because, as we were told, Germany would like to see a rapprochement with the Serb people and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

change its image created here due to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia," the Serb Republic parliament speaker said. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the OSCE decision to penalize the Serb Democratic Party in Doboj because of alleged blackmail of voters, Krajisnik said:

"To tell you the truth, we expected some unplanned reactions, and we are very strongly opposed to such additional blackmail and punishments. We will review this decision and believe that any deterioration in relations is fatal.

"We were surprised by the earlier punishments in Bihac, and we knew that this would only give rise to finding a reason to penalize the Serbs too," President Krajisnik explained and added:

"There are many reasons to penalize the other side, but we do not insist on punishment but on peaceful elections."

B-H: SDS Offers Public Apology for Election Rules Violation

LD1708165496 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1552 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Doboj, 17 Aug (TANJUG)—Milan S. Ninkovic, the chairman of the Municipal Committee of the Serb Democratic Party [SDS] in Doboj, publicly apologized today to voters in Doboj for the decision of the Municipal Assembly, reached at the SDS's proposal, to make the distribution of humanitarian aid to refugees conditional on their agreement to vote in certain parts of Doboj.

The election appeals commission of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], in charge of monitoring the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, fined the SDS because of the decision and ordered it to publicly apologize to the injured party. [passage omitted]

"We believe that making the distribution of humanitarian aid conditional on decisions that should constitute the right of free choice of every voter is contrary to the Dayton agreement, the rules and provisions of the interim election commission, and the violation of basic human rights. This is also contrary to the law of the Serb Republic.

"The SDS in Doboj deeply regrets its role in this unfortunate event and would hereby like to offer its apology to voters in Doboj," the statement says.

B-H: Official Complains of Widespread Political Persecution

AU1808160296 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] While the preparations for elections in the Serb Republic are under way the violence against those in Kozara who hold different political beliefs does not cease while the perpetrators of the acts go unpunished. In Novi Grad a Molotov cocktail was thrown on the car of Dragoljub Trivanovic, vice president of the Socialist Party of Serb Republic [SPRS], last night. Our correspondent Radovan Brankov interviewed Trivanovic about this incident:

[Begin recording] [Brankov] We see that the car is completely wrecked. Mr. Trivanovic, is it known who perpetrated this attack?

[Trivanovic] This is not a town of terrorism; however, lately cases of terrorist actions have been following one another. It is no wonder that this happened as we had witnessed an even greater drama. Two months ago 70 policemen broke into the Kozara Prevoz enterprise, whose director I was, and seized it, as the public knows. At the same time I must say that similar actions happened in Doboj, Teslic, and in Dubica.

[Brankov] I am just looking at this. It is [?strewn all over] here?

[Trivanovic] Yes, they also demolished the SPRS office, although it was not the authorities that had given these premises to the SPRS as public property, but we leased it ourselves.

[Brankov] Tell us, how do the authorities view all this?

[Trivanovic] To be honest, so far they have not apprehended anyone, nor was it their goal to find perpetrators of any similar acts.

[Brankov] Do you expect further similar [word indistinct]?

[Trivanovic] Yes, however, we perhaps also expect some other methods which they have announced. I must tell you that the population and the residents condemned and are condemning such actions. This is evident at our meetings which are well attended. With these methods they are losing the peoples' support in this region, while it is evident at the same time that they have lost their sense of direction.

[Brankov] We are here in your demolished office. What devastation!

[Trivanovic] Yes, this was carried out the same night; our office was demolished and damaged greatly. I must

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

also tell you that some of the slogans written here go below any level of human dignity.

[Brankov] No end to fear and terror in sight. Some individuals are publicly announcing such and similar violence. [end recording]

B-H: Radisic Stresses Milosevic Role in RS Preservation

AU1808153896 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Aug 96

["Excerpt" from a statement by Zivko Radisic, candidate of the Alliance for Peace and Progress for president of the Serb Republic, "broadcast" in the "Sunday at Ten" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nothing here is as it used to be, nor do I believe it will ever again be as it was. We find ourselves at a crossroad when we must literally take our fate into our own hands and determine the general strategy for our future existence. We want the Serb Republic to be a democratic, multiparliamentary, modern, and prosperous country, with the absolute reign of legality, constitutionality, order, and work.

Within all this we fight absolutely for the establishment of the permanent and continuous links with Serbia and Yugoslavia because this is indisputably in our ultimate historic, national, cultural, and spiritual interest. It goes beyond any doubt that we can and must primarily thank Serbia and Yugoslavia for the fact that we survived, reached our present stage, remained our own masters, if not completely then at least to a great degree created the Serb Republic, and survived the war. The truth is dawning that President Milosevic in the best manner of a politician and diplomat ended the twilight and bloodshed here, which resulted in Dayton and by this also in the Serb Republic.

What happened during the last days and even after signing the cease-fire on 5 October 1995 says that treason nevertheless occurred here and that not much time will be needed to learn certain truths, which is very difficult and tragic for the Serbian peoples, especially from the areas in which a great exodus truly took place. I believe that the current authorities cannot be amnestied for such mistakes. The people will be the best judge.

However, Slobodan Milosevic was and is the legitimate, authorized negotiator, whom the Serbian people here entrusted with the protection of their interests, that is, the negotiations with the international community. It is indisputable that the Dayton accord is a great victory for such a policy. The new elections and the appointment of the new authorities, precisely, will conclude the Dayton accord. We will make the Serb Republic completely legitimate, verify the Dayton peace package, and create the conditions for lifting the economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and the Serb Republic. All this must be viewed within a wider context which nevertheless means the triumph of reason and not a war-mongering policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Croatia: U.S., Germany Contest Control of Zeljava

AU1808164996 Belgrade TELEGRAF in Serbo-Croatian 14 Aug 96 p 6

[Article by Djoko Kesic: "Secret War of the United States and Germany in Croatia Over Bihac Airport"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The claims that the United States, following the war on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, skimmed the cream in Croatia while Germany was left "empty-handed" despite the generious complaisance that it demonstrated selflessly toward the Croats over the past 10 years, are not serious. Actually, it could rather be said that Germany is today in a position to direct nearly all economic and political trends in Croatia; however, it is still uncertain who will assume primacy in the control over the strategic military airports in Tudjman's state—the Pentagon or the Bundeswehr—a trustwortly source in the Yugoslav Army counterintelligence service reveals exclusively for NEDELJNI TELEGRAF.

With the introduction of NATO troops in the war on the territories of the former Yugoslavia, the U.S. Armed Forces placed Lora military harbor near Split and the main stronghold in the Adriatic, the island of Vis, with substantial and modern military infrastructure under its control, our source cites. On the other hand, Germany built its long-term positions in Croatia very judiciously. Through its powerful enterprises it purchased 99-year concessions in the Croatian ports of Rijeka, Pula, and Split. The German banks gave large credits to Croatia and in this way placed major Croatian enterprises firmly into their grip. According to some unofficial information, the capital of the German loans to Croatia exceeds $20 billion.

The German Government, that is, the Bundeswehr, currenly controls the military airports in Pula and Split, while the civilian airport on Krk, which is also equipped for military requirements, is interesting to the Pentagon. However, there is a growing uncertaintly over who will assume control over the military complex of Zeljava airport near Bihac. Our source in the Yugoslav Army counterintelligence service claims that a real underground war for Zeljava is under way between the Pentagon and the Bundeswehr and that the United States wanted to place Zeljava, which is the air base from which all of Europe can be controlled—as the generals of the former Yugoslav Army claim—under the control of NATO troops. The Bundeswehr, citing its privileged position in the EU and NATO, is trying to achive primacy in air space control. According to the source, it is perfecly unclear at the time who will be master of the Zeljava military complex.

Zeljava airport is doubtlessly the biggest investment of the former Yugoslav People's Army. After the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from that area well-informed military experts revealed that construction of this military complex, which takes up nearly the entire heart of Mt. Grmec, with its underground air fields, hospitals, shelters, storage for food and ammunition, air defense radar systems, and rocket launchers, cost in the range of $6 to $8 million.

[Box, p 6]

The Yugoslav People's Army Did Not Destory Zeljava, Whose Repair Would Cost Only $40 Million

When the Yugoslav People's Army in the fall of 1992 left Zeljava, it activated the self-destruction mechanism of the airport and reportedly the entire military complex. The officers of the Yugoslav People's Party at that time claimed that the airport was permanently destroyed and could not be repaired. Western military experts today claim that the airport was seriously damaged, but for some reason or other the self-destruction mechanism of the military complex was only partially activated and the airport could be made operable again for the relatively small investment of $40 million.

Croatia: Tudjman in Talks With Bosnian Croats

LD1908113096 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Geneva talks and the reaffirmation of commitment to the Dayton project which guarantees the survival and full equality of the Croat people in the [Croat-Muslim] federation, and less than a month before the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and representatives of the Croat people in Bosnia-Herzegovina have met on the island of Brijuni to discuss further moves related to the consolidation of the federation.

The talks, which are in progress, will deal with last week's signing of the agreement by [Federal President] Zubak, [Federal Vice President] Ganic, and [Bosnian Prime Minister] Muratovic—the agreement by which the Croats and the Bosniaks determined the dynamics of the transfer of power from the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia and central institutions [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] to federal institutions. According to the agreement, the Bosniaks have to disband some 30 republican institutions, including the agencies which are not mentioned in the Dayton constitution.

In addition to President Tudjman, the Croatian side is represented in the talks by Prime Minister Zlatko

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Matesa; Defense Minister Gojko Susak; Dr. Ivo Sanader, head of the president's office; and others. The delegation of the Croat people in Bosnia-Herzegovina is represented by Federal President Kresimir Zubak; Bozo Rajic, chairman of the Croatian Democratic Party [in Bosnia-Herzegovina]; and [Bosnian] Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic.

Croatia: Granic, Milutinovic To Sign Agreement

LD1708145596 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1436 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, Aug. 17 (TANJUG)—A Yugoslav Foreign Ministry delegation that arrived in Zagreb on Friday ended talks with representatives of the Croatian Foreign Ministry.

A statement released on Saturday by the Croatian Foreign Ministry said the talks had been successful.

The two sides discussed documents that should stipulate the conditions for full normalization of relations between Belgrade and Zagreb.

The document is expected to be signed by the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and Croatia, Milan Milutinovic and Mate Granic in Belgrade on Aug. 23.

It was agreed that Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Simonovic visit Belgrade on Monday to discuss outstanding issues with Milutinovic.

Croatia: Retired Serb General Killed in Krajina

LD1708170496 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1626 GMT 17 Aug 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, Aug 17 (TANJUG)—A human rights watchdog body in Croatia has reported that a Serb, a retired general of former Yugoslavia's army, was killed on Aug. 14 in a village 150 km south of Croatia's capital Zagreb.

General Milorad Kiscevic, aged 75, was killed by a mine planted at the door of his house in his native village of Vrebac near Gospic, Serb Krajina, the Helsinki Human Rights Committee said in a statement in Zagreb.

Kiscevic had visited the house of his birth several times in the past months from Zagreb, where he had lived since his retirement 20 years ago, the statement said.

The apparent intention of the bombing was to put a stop to the already slow and sporadic repatriation of the region's displaced population, the statement added.

At least 300,000 Serbs have fled Croatia since its armed secession from former Yugoslavia in 1991, and another 250,000 fled at the time of the Croatian army's offensive against Serb Krajina in the summer of 1995.

Helsinki Committee Executive Director Petar Mrkalj told ASSOCIATED PRESS on Friday that at least four persons had been killed and 11 had been injured in Croatia in the past several months by mines planted in Serb houses and gardens.

Mrkalj said that this was a new method of intimidating the remaining Serbs in areas occupied by the Croatian army in the summer of 1995.

According to the United Nations, more than 250 Serbs, mostly elderly people who had remained in Serb Krajina since its occupation, have been killed, and there are frequent cases of harassment of Serbs and plundering of abandoned Serb property.

Croatia: Commentary Speculates on KOA Group

AU1908120696 Zagreb NACIONAL in Serbo-Croatian 16 Aug 96 pp 5-8

[Commentary by Jasna Babic: "KOA: Fikret Abdic's Secret Terrorist Organization Blew Up Veceslav Holjevac's Monument in Zagreb!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The monument to Veceslav Holjevac, Zagreb's most famous mayor, was blown up in the early hours of Sunday, 11 August. However, this impressive statue was not ruined. The explosion woke up the sleeping inhabitants of Zagreb with a sound like thunder, but the improvised time bomb hardly managed to damage the statue's pedestal.

The public was informed that the indivual responsible had not been found and the Zagreb police emphasized that the demolition had nothing to do with the mysterious Krajina Liberation Army, the KOA.

However, somebody tried to deny that on the evening of the same day. An anonymous sender faxed the following message to the editorial offices of Zagreb newspapers: "The explosion that took place this morning was a warning. The monument was put up by the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Union] and the HDZ is our greatest enemy, especially its president. Holjevac was sent to Kordun in 1941 to liquidate all prominent Serbs. He showed his true face in 1971. We just wanted to show you that we are near at hand. We will proceed with our actions as planned! Freedom to Krajina! The Krajina Liberation Army."

The heading of the message said "Notice" and the fax machine from which it was sent had apparently been programmed to transmit a false number, time, and date. The transmission time said 1216 hours on 12 August, but the NACIONAL editorial staff received

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the message approximately 10 hours earlier, during the night between Monday and Tuesday [12-13 August]. [dates as published]

A linguistic analysis revealed that the person who wrote the message spoke good Croatian, but had an incomplete knowledge of recent Croatian history. Mayor Veceslav Holjevac, who built the bridges between the old and new part of Zagreb and who deserves most credit for the Zagreb Trade Fair, was a partisan in World War II: That is the truth. He fought in Kordun, among other places. However, he could not have "shown his true face" to the Serbs in 1971, as the alleged KOA member maintained. Mayor Holjevac died a whole year before 1971! Indeed, 1970 is engraved on the foot of his statue as the year of his death.

The Methods of the Yugoslav State Security

However, although the Notice contains a couple of stylistic errors and misusages and a historical howler, its author and sender is not necessarily "a prankster," as one influential Zagreb police officer commented in a short conversation with NACIONAL's reporters.

On the contrary, the KOA has displayed a number of skills that used to be taught in the former Yugoslav schools for "psychological-propaganda actions" of the State Security Administration [UDBA] and the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army]. Their activities usually began with a orchestrated press campaign against enemies of the state and traitors, culminating in an explosion—for instance, the bomb in Paromlin Street in 1975. Although the bomb was apparently planted by UDBA (they even took precautions to avoid victims!), Djuro Perica, now an assembly representative, was pointed out as being responsible. He was found guilty of conspiring to assassinate Tito and sentenced to 20 years in prison!

For instance, the article that VJESNIK published last week about the undercover connections of the Serb terrorist organization and a tentative rent-a-car service from Dubrovnik was the culmination of a "psychological-propaganda campaign" of the VJESNIK editorial staff.

We must remember that the series of such articles began with allegedly authentic documents from Serbian intelligence. VJESNIK tried to use those documents to prove that Ivan Zvonimir Cicak, chairman of the Croatian Helsinki Committee [HOO], had been an UDBA informer at high school at the age of 16.

A more detailed analysis of the VJESNIK facsimiles discovered that the documents were a product of cooperation between a Serb and a Croatian spy. The two of them worked together at the Croatian Interior Ministry before 1991. When the war began, one of them joined the rebel Serbs, probably on a secret mission, while the other became an HDZ official within the police.

The VJESNIK editorial staff received the facsimiles from the HIS [Croatian Intelligence Service], through the help of Markica Rebic, a philosophy and Marxism teacher and former member of Veselica's HDS [Croatian Democratic Party], who discovered the charm of intelligence games and deliberate misinformation in 1991.

One of the recent rumors in the impressive high-rise building on the corner of Savska and Slavonia Avenue [the VJESNIK building] is that President Tudjman asked those present at a session of the Presidential Council for National Security to help VJESNIK find news and preserve at least a minimum circulation. Rebic, presently head of the intelligence service of the MORH [Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia], took it literally.

The interview with Fikret Abdic, published in VJESNIK on the day that the Bihac public prosecutor issued an indictment against "Babo [Abdic's nickname and Bosnian slang for father] from Velika Kladusa," is a part of the same setting, the same kind of "psychological-propaganda actions." Those involved belong to the same setting. A lengthy list of Abdic's sins comprises war crimes in camps for children and the elderly, members of his own nation. He also cooperated with another war criminal, Milan Martic, who was at that time specializing in exterminating Croats.

The Makers of the KOA Are Near at Hand

As we can see, it is no coincidence that Martic's buddy Abdic was until recently the employer of the main commentator in VJESNIK, a Bosnian Serb called Zoran O. Milanovic. Milanovic has interesting journalistic, communist, and police records. He came to Croatia in 1993 and now he has the arrogance to try to teach Croats lessons in Croatian patriotism and state-creating.

There is no doubt that there is a shred of truth in the "hoax" fax that came from the KOA following the explosion under Holjevac's monument: The makers of the KOA are near at hand! They are right here, in Zagreb, protected by Croatian passports and certificates of citizenship and paid out of the Croatian state budget. They are also in various lobbies of past and present informers active during the war.

They allegedly had a "gentlemen's nonaggression pact": The agents of Serbian State Security [SDB] did not carry out any terrorist acts in Zagreb and Croatian agents did not conduct any in Belgrade.

The agreement seems to have resulted in a closer mode of cooperation: The elimination of joint enemies of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

HDZ and Milosevic's Socialist Party. Of course, mutual friends were helped: such as Fikret Abdic, an old associate of the former Yugoslav KOS [Counterintelligence Service, of the JNA].

Therefore, the Zagreb police may and may not have been right in saying that the KOA did not blow up Holjevac's statue. For if Abdic's men did it, ordinary police officers will never identify those responsible.

Laying Claim to Terrorist Actions

Furthermore, this is not the first time that the Zagreb-Belgrade KOA has claimed responsibility for an explosion that was found not to be connected with it in any way. The day that we heard about the fire at the Djuro Djakovic Croatian tank factory, Belgrade DNEVNI TELEGRAF published an article about the "spectacular act of KOA commandos" in Slavonski Brod.

Today we know for sure that the explosion and the fire took place because of a defective furnace for melting trinitrotoluene. The defective furnace entered the plant because of a typical case of corruption of a typical Croatian clerk: The same MORH employee sold the furnace to the factory in Slavonski Brod and bought it with state funds, as an authorized representative of the MORH. His private company made money and the plant could go to hell.

Although the police claim that the Serb terrorists have not carried out any of their threats, the KOA has become a source of silent fear in Croatia, a collective psychosis, a paranoia—in short, an atmosphere suitable for manipulating people. Combined with the blown-up pedestal of the bronze Holjevac, the "psychological-propaganda campaign" has been more than successful.

The information about the existence of the Krajina Liberation Army—the Serbian IRA, as the Serbian media lovingly call it—was published for the first time in Belgrade's DNEVNI TELEGRAF on 31 July 1996. Exactly like the "Notice" about the explosion came to Zagreb editorial staffs, the first communique of the KOA was sent anonymously from an unidentified place. At least, that is what the DNEVNI TELEGRAF journalists and editors said: It was faxed and it bore symbols of the Serb Republic, as the Serbs call the territory that they have appropriated from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The initial declaration of the KOA was an unprecedented triumph for DNEVNI TELEGRAF. The news that a mysterious organization named KOA was threatening terrorism in Croatia on Patriotic Gratitude Day [5 August] was carried by many press agencies in the world, as well as some Croatian weeklies.

Nothing dramatic happened on 4 or 5 August, despite the threats. However, the KOA became the favorite topic of DNEVNI TELEGRAF, as well as the Croatian "state-creating" VJESNIK. DNEVNI TELEGRAF, unlike VJESNIK, is a private newspaper founded by a former BORBA journalist, but Belgrade circles know it—as with VJESNIK—as a medium through which all kinds of Serbian services and organizations conduct their conspiratorial activities.

The founder of the highest-circulation Belgrade newspaper plunged into journalism fresh from the Yugoslav police, while the main commentator of VJESNIK worked in the leadership of the Bosnian police before defecting.

The KOA was a tidbit for the Belgrade police magazine. It also increased their circulation. DNEVNI TELEGRAF clung to that rewarding topic and for the past two weeks has been publishing articles by anyone willing to say something about this Serb terrorist organization.

The following history of the life and work of the KOA can be inferred from their declarations, threats, and logic: It was founded by the defeated Serbs from Croatia, who are craving for revenge; the terrorist organization is so conspiratorial that nobody knows the identity of its members; the membership is numerous, experienced in the Serb-Croat war, and their instructor is Captain Dragan [leader of Serbian militia who fought in Croatia].

Besides Milan Martic, who is now living in Banja Luka, an active part in the KOA's organization was taken by Boro Mikelic, the former chief executive of the Gavrilovic meat packing industry, head of the so-called government of the Socialist Republic of Croatia in exile, and prime minister of Krajina.

Two documents are missing in this history. The Belgrade editorial staffs have not received the "sentence of the Krajina liberation court" that threatened death to two Serb "traitors" and eight Croatian "war criminals," dated 3 August 1996. For the time being, they have not received the "Notice" about the explosion under Holjevac's monument, either.

Apparently, the devoted Serbian promoters were deprived of what the KOA sent to the Croatian journalists. There are two potential reasons: Afraid that a terrorist organization might damage the already dreadful international reputation of the Serbs and Serbia, Belgrade has engaged in a propaganda counterattack! Even Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan took part in this campaign, to deny the existence of such a thing as a terrorist organization of Croatian Serbs.

"It is a mere fraud aimed at cheating the wonderful people of Krajina out of their money. Should anyone

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ask for money in the name of the KOA, I entreat you not to waste a single dinar on that nonsense," he stated recently.

The self-styled Captain Dragan denied being the military commander of the Serb terrorists, as DNEVNI TELEGRAF had alleged. He said that he had "devoted himself to humanitarian work since the fall of Krajina."

Even the "Organization of the Wounded of the Serb Krajina" solemnly stated that "terrorism is not an answer to political problems." The chairman of the "wounded Serbs," however, believes that the KOA does exist and was founded by Borislav Mikelic and "other war profiteers." "That is insane and nonsensical!" Mikelic replied.

Milan Martic, whom the anonymous sender of the threatening anti-Croatian proclamations declared the founder of the KOA, has given several interviews to the local media in Banja Luka, his present place of residence. The name of the newspaper financed by his political ally Fikret Abdic was ZAPADNA BOSNA [Western Bosnia] and the Banja Luka daily that Martic has spoken through is named—what a coincidence!—ZAPADNA SRBIJA [Western Serbia]! Martic told ZAPADNA SRBIJA that the KOA did not exist. A week later, to a DNEVNI TELEGRAF reporter [sentence unfinished as published]

Another reason for the transfer of the KOA from the Belgrade editorial staffs to Zagreb is that Croatia is its main target, not Serbia. Anyway, as we can see in the VJESNIK example, news of the KOA's existence was welcome. For the time being, Croats have not been warned to be cautious. The KOA has been a mere tool in the witch-hunt against alleged undercover internal enemies of Croatia.

One of the interesting details in the entire case is that the two Zagreb documents are very different. The impression that they give is of being—in the full freedom of intelligence improvisation—made by different people, certainly not members of the same hierarchic organization with strict rules of demeanor and expressions.

"Sentence of the Krajina Liberation Court" was typed on a typewriter with the Cyrillic alphabet. It contains an abundance of typing errors and a mixture of ekavian and ijekavian forms [dialects of Serbo-Croatian] typical of the Croatian Serbs. The text imitates a formal judicial document in its heading and its register number. Surprisingly, the "Sentence" was not certified by any stamp, nor were the Belgrade terrorist proclamations. They were not adorned by any symbols or emblems: They were mere pages that just about anybody could have typed on a typewriter.

The history of Serbian Chetnik terrorist organizations shows that embellished seals and coats of arms, with plenty of eagles and whetstones, are characteristic of all their organizations, even the most conspiratorial ones.

The KOA's "Notice" claiming responsibility for the explosion under Holjevac's monument is equally bare and lacking in adornment. Still, there is one astonishing thing that differentiates it from the "Sentence." The "Sentence" was written in good Croatian, without a heading or date, in the dry style of a short report from a daily newspaper.

[Box, p 6]

The Krajina Liberation Army/The Krajina Liberation Court Nr: 01/96 3 August 1996

The Krajina Liberation Court, on the grounds of the human right to life, possessions, territory, and human dignity, on the indictment of active participation in the extermination of the Serb nation of Krajina IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERB KRAJINA issues the sentence:

1. Stipetic Petar, HV [Croatian Army] general, Zagreb

2. Filipovic-Bunjevac Ljiljana, HTV editor, Zagreb

3. Glavas Branimir, county prefect of Osijek and Baranja, Osijek

4. Tankosic Mirko, deputy of Ivica Vrkic, Serb from Zagreb

5. Tudjman Miroslav, head of all intelligence services, Zagreb

6. Mrksic Mile, lieutenant-general of VJ [Yugoslav Army] Belgrade

7. Milanovic Milan, head of negotiating team, Belgrade

8. Vukelic Veljko, representative in the assembly of the RSK

9. Roso Zorislav-Ante, HV general, Zagreb

10. Spegelj Martin, general of the army, Zagreb are sentenced to death because they took an active part in the extermination of the Serb people in the RSK and the Republic of Croatia in the period between the years 1990 and 1996 by the following means: Commanding HV units; commanding the RSK army in an incompetent and treacherous way; instigating racial, religious, and national hatred; betraying the members of the Serb nation in the RSK; helping the preparations for the ethnic cleansing of eastern Slavonia, western Srijem, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Baranja; and signing the capitulation of that part of the RSK. They thus became responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, immense material damage, and the unnecessary deaths, injuries, and imprisonment of soldiers of the RSK army. The ultimate goal of all these actions was the final extermination of the Serb people in the RSK and the Republic of Croatia.

The abovenamed are sentenced to death because of all these acts and the sentence will be carried out at their places of residence or wherever an appropriate opportunity arises.

The sentence will be carried out by the KOA!

This court has decided that those sentenced do not deserve the right to appeal because of the serious nature of their criminal acts. FREEDOM TO KRAJINA—DEATH TO TRAITORS!!!

Croatia: Klein Opens Ferryboat Service on Drava River

AU1708192096 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] By symbolically cutting the ribbon on the Baranja bank of the Drava, UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] Administrator Jacques Klein today marked the beginning of the operation of a ferryboat service which will after five years again link up the Slavonian and the Baranja bank of the Drava. Here is a report by Bogdan Rkman:

[Begin recording] The opening of the ferryboat service is another step in the process of the peaceful reintegration Administrator Klein said, announcing that new steps in this process will take place in the coming week, namely, the opening of the Udvar border-crossing and trade centers in the former separation zone.

Klein pointed to the support of Presidents Milosevic and Tudjman in the process of the peaceful reintegration, emphasizing that the question of political sovereignty was indisputable, but that the minorities' rights and the human rights in general can be agreed on further. Any step undertaken is a step ahead in the creation of the joint future and the region's openness in terms of economic recovery, resettlement, and return of refugees, Klein said.

To the numerous Croatian refugees who greeted him on the Slavonian bank of the Drava, Klein also promised the visits to several villages in Baranja in the coming week.

Voicing satisfaction, Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Kostovic congratulated General Klein's administration for maintaining a step-by-step peaceful reintegration.

In reply to questions by numerous journalists Kostovic said that the process of normalizing FRY-Croatian relations was of key importance for peaceful reintegration and the future of the Serbian people in this region.

Commenting on the announced changes to the Law on Amnesty, he said that any law could be supplemented and improved, which will be seen [word indistinct]. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FYROM: President Discusses Collective Security System

AU1608171896 Skopje Radio Macedonia Network in Macedonian 1330 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by Krume Pendovski]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of Army Day, 18 August, Defense Minister Blagoj Handziski and Trajce Krstevski, head of the General Staff, organized a reception that was attended by representatives of state bodies and of the diplomatic corps in Skopje. The guests were addressed by President Kiro Gligorov, who is also supreme commander of the Armed Forces. Krume Pendovski reports:

[Pendovski] We have created a small but efficient army whose function is to respond to possible foreign aggression. We are have firmly decided to be included in collective systems of defense, Gligorov said. He also reviewed the past achievements of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM].

[Gligorov] The security and defense of the whole Atlantic region in which we live is of an integral character, and it can only be guaranteed through collective systems of defense.

The supreme commander added that all our institutions have been included in the processes for our state's membership to NATO. A special step was our membership in Partnership for Peace on 15 November last year, Gligorov stressed.

[Gligorov] With our membership in the Partnership, we undertook a number of duties, but we have also gained a lot of possibilities for a systematic cooperation with the structures of the Alliance and for fast fulfillment of the conditions for membership in NATO.

President Gligorov also recalled that in the past period the army was restructured by NATO's standards, that a contingent for our possible participation in peace operations had been formed, and that a cooperation with a number of countries—members of the Partnership and NATO—had been established. The president also recalled the successful participation of our unit in a military exercise in the framework of Partnership for Peace outside the Macedonian borders.

[Gligorov] It has now become clear that together we will build confidence among us and that we will give a join contribution to maintenance of peace and stability. So, we expect all our neighbors, members of Partnership for Peace, as well as of the Alliance, to take part in the exercises that will be organized here this autumn and next spring.

President Gligorov also emphasized Macedonia's efforts for faster membership in NATO.

[Gligorov] We have joined the process of discussions on the study for NATO's enlargement, and we expect it to be successfully completed in September or October, by which we have become equal in the preparations with the other countries that are included in this process.

In connection with UN preventive mission in our state, President Gligorov said that it played a positive role in the stabilization of the situation on the Macedonian border and that we expect the mandate of the mission to be continued for the next six months. Peace is our future, Gligorov said, and he ended his speech as follows: the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, as the main factor in this field, is very responsibly engaged, and it has become a respectable factor of cooperation and an institution that enjoys the strongest confidence of our citizens.

FYROM: Academy Nominates Gligorov for Nobel Peace Prize

AU1508151596 Skopje MIC in English 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Macedonian [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] President Kiro Gligorov has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1996. The Nomination signed by the Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences and the presidents of the two universities in Macedonia, that is the University in Bitola and the one in Skopje, was sent to the Norwegian Nobel Prize Committee. In addition, Professor William Done from the University of Pittsburgh has also nominated Kiro Gligorov for the Nobel Peace Prize. The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on 11 October 1996.

"We respect the Nomination with an immense feeling of responsibility as people from the world of science and education, and we are deeply convinced that the nomination of Mr. Kiro Gligorov for the highest world prize for peace, is of a wider importance for the peace process in the world, and at the same time, it is a recognition to the person who gave an enormous contribution to the peace process in the Balkans and at large," says the Nomination letter signed by Academic Ksente Bogoev, by President of Skopje University Radmila Kiprijanova, and President of Bitola University Dimko Kokarovski.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FYROM: Tension in Relations With Albania Viewed

AU1608191996 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 15 Aug 96 p 3

[Commentary by Panta Dzambazoski: "Is a Large-Scale Radicalization Forthcoming?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If we analyze the political events associated with the question of the "phantom university" in Mala Recica, it becomes evident that a transformation is taking place within the political bodies representing the Albanians in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM]. The political parties and organizations of this minority are divided into two blocs, between which (at least for now) there is no normal communication and cooperation. One of the blocs is represented by PDPA [Party for Democratic Prosperity of Albanians] (Dzaferi is its leader), NDP [People's Democratic Party] (Halimi), and RPNE [Republican Party for National Unity] (Halili). If they were considered "radicals" in the past, now it is for certain that this is exactly what they are. The other bloc is formed only by PDP [Party for Democratic Prosperity], the leader of which is Abdurahman Aliti. In its six-year-long history, this party has gone through several phases of reformation and transformation. In the beginning, it was a large party that embodied emotional and radical nationalism, and it was the main instigator of increased interethnic tension in the country (1990-92). It had trouble coping with the deep division within its ranks caused by straight radicals who were led by the younger generation and Menduh Taci. The winner of this battle was that side still headed by Abdurahman Aliti, but the "defeated" Tacists formed a new party, PDPA, which was also joined by Arben Dzaferi, who lived and worked in Kosovo for many years and who is known as a distinguished intellectual.

In-Between

While the NDP retained the same leadership and the same (more radical) political views, the new party, PDPA, which embodied passionate nationalism, intellectual rhetorics (Dzaferi), and charisma (Taci), managed to create the illusion that it was the only real representative of the idea "Albanian—equal in all."

On the other hand, the PDP managed to solidify its (once undefined) reputation as a serious, large political party which recognized the right way to do things in politics, asking for national and other rights through the systems' institutions and waging a political struggle by the rules of democracy.

However, in a young, democratic political system in which there are still questions about what "interethnic coexistence" is (among the parties of the Albanians, the Macedonians, and the others), there was an "in-between" period. The government and the PDP (a partner in government) were faced with an awkward situation, the outcome of which was an agreement on a gradual and reasonable political action in which (conditionally speaking) both sides would reach an understanding on what is possible, acceptable, real, and achievable.

The PDP, in its 1990 program, advocated a university institution in which instruction was conducted in Albanian, and it still advocates this idea. Nevertheless, during the "in-between" period, the PDPA, a new and relatively small party, whose leaders never concealed their wish to raise the political consciousness of the Macedonian Albanians, raised the question of an Albanian-language university and took concrete actions in this direction. They proceeded under the notion of "whether the government likes it or not" by ignoring its [government's] decisions and inciting interethnic tension between "the people and the police." The PDP was irritated not only because the PDPA took credit for the idea of an Albanian-language university, but because of the way in which the PDPA (uncompromisingly) raised the idea (the PDP airs its views within the institutions of the system). They were also irritated because the chosen "university creators" devaluated the "institution" (although illegal) with their activities, political statements, and dubious intellectual attributes. This is why the leaders of the PDP, including Aliti, were not guests of the "university," or supporters of the "creators" and organizers of the so-called protests for protection in defense of Sulejmani, Fejziu, and the other offenders.

Prime Before Local Elections

Tension surrounding the issue of "Tetovo university" reescalated with political attacks by the leadership from Mala Recica and by the PDPA-NDP team against the PDP. It is not hard to figure out that rhetoric like "mercenary and vassal PDP" is meant to discredit Aliti's party among the Albanians and, if possible, to force it to leave the government and parliament. Eventually, this might produce a political crisis in the country, a "normal event in a democracy," as Dzaferi said, and make it once again a national and interethnic party, which seldom leads to satisfaction and progress.

It is even easier to view the events within the Albanians' political bodies through the prism of the forthcoming local elections. PDPA and NDP view their best chances in their radical views and in discrediting the PDP, regardless of whether they intend to participate in the elections (now that they have left the institutions of the system—the parliament) or organize one-nation (illegal) local elections. It will be no surprise

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

if the PDP radicalizes itself for the sake of the local elections as well, which was announced in Aliti's statement for Radio Tirana. The PDPA-NDP team repeatedly uses the phrase "territories of the Albanians in Macedonia," which mirrors the official positions of our western neighbor (as was the case with the resolution of the Albanian parliament, to which our country responded with a protest note). It is interesting that the Republic of Albania, which used to associate the minority issue with Kosovo during the period of communist dictatorship, today links it to Macedonia as well. In spite of its democratic social system, Albania today has no desire to establish neighborly relations using democratic principles and dialogue; instead it uses only propaganda. (The presidents of the two countries, Berisha and Gligorov, have so far had only one official meeting, while the prime ministers have never met). Tirana's eyes are focused across the border and unreasonable requests are made, sometimes by discrediting the Macedonian state and its nation. Yet, as far as the numerous minority in its own household (Greek and Macedonian) is concerned, Albania does not accept that there is even 10 percent of them (not even one percent in the case of the Macedonians), as noted in international conventions.

Is Tirana Juggling?

It is interesting that the state and private press in Albania follow the same line (we do not include electronic mass media because there are no private radio and television stations in Albania, just the official Albanian Radio and Television Network). Yet, some are trying to figure out the motives behind Berisha's radical attitude toward Macedonia. The most circulated private newspaper, KOHA IONE, notes that Berisha's behavior might be for domestic purposes since Albania has been transformed from a pet of the West into a country that is a disgrace for the West (because of the manipulated elections). According to this newspaper, the aim is to turn attention away from the insulted opposition and toward the "all-Albanian question of the rightless copatriots," and to make it appear that the Albanian regime is "caring." The newspaper claims that Tirana does not have the strength to carry on like this with Greece or Yugoslavia.

There is also an interesting article in the Sunday edition of the daily RILINDIJA. This newspaper, as we know, is Pristina's, but because of the current conditions in Kosovo, it is being issued in Tirana for a period of time. In spite of the rising tension in Kosovo, the bomb explosions and the activities of the Yugoslav police, the main commentary on the front page focuses on "Tetovo university" and on the attitudes of the Macedonian Government towards the requests of the Albanians, concluding that the "well-known Macedonian policy" continues. This topic could have been chosen from within Albania's own political life. It is not unusual for RILINDIJA, although it is a Kosovo newspaper, to support the views of the government in Tirana—in fact, it could be viewed as being progovernment.

FYROM: 4 Injured in Ammunition Factory Explosion

LD1608121496 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1130 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Skopje, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—There was a strong explosion, which then caused a fire, in a part of the Suvenir [souvenir] ammunition factory in the village of Samokov near Brod in western Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] on Wednesday evening, Skopje media reported today.

The ammunition factory in Samokov manufactured, among other things, shotgun ammunition, hail breaking rockets, and fireworks. Informed sources say that some of the production caters for the needs of the Macedonian Army.

According to the first and rather brief reports from the scene of the explosion, four factory workers were injured, two of them seriously. The injured workers have been transferred to a hospital in Prilep.

There has been no official statement yet, but on the basis of the first incomplete reports, it is certain that the accident caused huge damage although the fire was contained.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Poland: Dobrzanski: Issue of Tanks for Bosnia Is Confidential

LD1708174796 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1700 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The matter of possible exports of Polish tanks to Bosnia has not been finalized, National Defense Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski said in Lublin. He added that the issue was not the sale of tanks.

[Begin Dobrzanski recording] I do not know where the word "sale" came from, but everyone seems to be using this word. I think that using this word is a gross exaggeration.

Yes, international talks on this matter took place and are still taking place. Unfortunately, I am bound by secrecy, and it is not only a Polish secret, and cannot bring the authority of my office or Poland's standing into disrepute. I cannot repeat things that are subjects of confidential talks. For this reason I cannot say anything more.

However, those who are attacking the authorities, thinking that they are making a mistake by not taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to sell the tanks, are wrong. Let us not forget that our soldiers are posted to that region and that we could be endangering their lives and health. Let us not forget either that, if other people think it is such a good business opportunity, why are they trying to persuade us to get involved in this? [end recording]

Poland: Ministry Confident Tank Deal With Bosnia Not Lost

LD1608125296 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1005 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] Poland has not lost its opportunity to sell Polish tanks to Bosnia, Lieutenant Colonel Eugeniusz Mleczak, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense [MON], has said. According to press reports, the $50 million deal to supply T-72 tanks to the Bosnian Army was not signed because of bureaucracy. This offer was put forward to Poland in June by the U.S. side, which wanted to finance the sale.

The MON spokesman told Polish Radio that talks on this subject were still continuing and recalled that decisions about the sale of arms were not made quickly. He also said that the matter did not concern the MON because arms trade was not the ministry's business.

[Begin Mleczak recording] This case is not closed yet. The government will make the decision. On the other hand, to paraphrase a well-known saying, you could say that the defense minister's home is in Poland because the armed forces themselves are a customer of Polish industry when it comes to purchasing tanks. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Announcer] But, according to Zbigniew Ostrowski, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Cooperation, Poland is bound by the ban on arms exports to areas of the former Yugoslavia. He commented on the reports by MON by saying that our government had been having talks with the Americans on the sale of Polish T-72 tanks. Ostrowski recalled that in April the Polish Government promised to uphold the ban on arms sales to countries of the former Yugoslavia.

[Begin Ostrowski recording] This was the Council of Ministers' decision, dated 2 April 1996, that the Polish Republic would join the declaration of the EU member states to uphold the ban on the supply of weapons, ammunition, and military equipment to the countries of the former Yugoslavia. What does this mean? Well, this means that Poland upholds the ban on the sale of arms, ammunition, and military equipment to the group of countries that includes Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. [end recording]

Poland: Pawlak: Warsaw Should Protect Interests When Joining EU

LD1708144396 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1400 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Waldemar Pawlak, chairman of the Polish Peasant Party, who is staying in Zielona Gora today, said that when trying to join the EU we should not forget to protect our national interests. In his opinion, we should follow the example of the EU countries, particularly Germany, when it comes to the policy on the territory of the former East Germany and, specifically, the preferential treatment given to the German capital.

Pawlak said that all of the matters connected with land ownership should be regulated because in many cases land could be Poland's only contribution to joint economic ventures.

Poland: Composition of Foreign Policy Council Detailed

LD1708130496 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1100 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Policy Council [Rada Polityki Zagranicznej] was founded today in Warsaw.

Initiator of the council Krzysztof Skubiszewski has told Polskie Radio that the council will be a civic body

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

helping to shape opinion and defending the interests of the Polish State both in Poland and abroad.

The council's composition will include former heads of governments Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, and Hanna Suchocka, as well as former Foreign Affairs Ministers Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Andrzej Olechowski, and Wladyslaw Bartoszewski.

Other politicians invited to participate in the council's activities include Professor Bronislaw Geremek, Piotr Nowina-Konopka, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Zbigniew Bujak, and Wieslaw Chrzanowski.

Poland: Defense Ministry Structure, Tasks Detailed

WS1608143396 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 16 Aug 96 p 14

[Article by Stanislaw Malecki and Piotr Pabisiak-Karwowski, experts at the Legal Department of the National Defense Ministry: "Statute for MON, Tasks for the Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The Law on the Office of the National Defense Minister of 14 December 1995 (Legal Gazette 1996, No. 10, Item 56), which entered into force on 14 February 1996, obligated the Council of Ministers to issue two ordinances: to provide the National Defense Ministry [MON] with a statute and to specify in detail the scope of activity for this minister.*

Both ordinances were issued on 9 July 1996; one of them came into effect on 8 August of this year (Legal Gazette No. 88, Item 399), and the other will come into force on 17 August (Legal Gazette No. 94, Item 426).

The statute for MON encompasses the ministry itself, a list of organizational units subordinated to the national defense minister or supervised by him, as well as state-owned companies for which the institution of the minister is the founding organ.

The authors of the MON statute had the following objectives in mind:

—reducing and simplifying the organizational structures of the ministry, primarily by eliminating redundant structures in which exactly the same work is done as in other structures and by merging organizational units that have similar scopes of activity; in the new structure of the ministry, the number of organizational units will be reduced from 52 to 32. As a result, it is to be expected that the number of ministry employees will drop;

—integrating the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces with the ministry (the General Staff will be a component of the ministry) to a degree that will be indispensable for the minister to properly administer MON, including the Armed Forces of the Polish Republic;

—creating organizational conditions to establish the Command of the Ground Forces outside the structure of the ministry (it would be the third structure like this, aside from the command of the Navy and the command of the Air Forces and Air Defense Troops).

Thus, providing MON with a statute will make it possible to shape its internal structure in such a way as to make it similar to the regulations existing in NATO countries.

Apart from the minister, the ministry consists of 14 departments, two offices, 14 administrations, and one independent section. The administrations and the section make up the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. The departments are as follows: the Administrative Coordinating Department, the Department of International Security, the Budget Department, the Department of Armament and Military Equipment Supply, the Economic Department, the Department of Infrastructure, the Department of Cadres and Military Education, the Inspection Department, the Legal Department, the Department of Research and Project Implementation, the Socioeducational Department, the Department of the Defense System, the Department of Foreign Military Affairs, and the Department of Cooperation With NATO. The administrations are as follows: the Administration of Command, the Administration for Materials, the Administration for Mobilization and Recruitment, the Administration for Territorial Defense, the General Administration, the Operational Strategic Administration, the Organizational Administration, the Administration for Logistics Planning, the Administration for Programming the Development of the Armed Forces, the Administration for Reconnaissance and Radio Electronic Warfare, the Administration for Troop Training, the Technological Administration, the Administration of the Communications Troops and Information Science, and the Administration of the Military Health Service. In addition, the ministry also consists of the Offices of Press and Information and the Office of Complaints and Interventions, as well as the Topographical Section.

It is noted in the statute that the internal organization and the scope of the tasks of the various departments, administrations, offices, and the independent sections are to be specified by the organizational regulations of the ministry (work on the regulations is already under way in MON).

Where organizational units subordinated to the national defense minister are concerned, the statute lists, among other things, the following: commands of the various branches of the Armed Forces (commands of the Ground Forces, the Air Force and the Air Defense Troops, and the Navy) together with the organizational

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

units subordinated to them, the Headquarters of the Military Police, the Inspectorate of the Military Information Service together with the units subordinated to it, the National Defense Academy, the editorial staffs of POLSKA ZBROJNA and the ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI illustrated magazine, the Central Military Library, the Museum of the Polish Armed Forces, the House of the Polish Armed Forces, the Representative Artistic Ensemble of the Polish Armed Forces, the Central Military Archives, the Printing House of the General Staff, military retirement offices, the Central Clinical Hospital, and the Staff of the Civilian Defense of the Country.

Among the units supervised by the minister are also the remaining military academies (the Naval Academy, the Medical Military Academy, and the Technical Military Academy), officer schools of higher education, military institutes (research units), some military holiday complexes, and the Military Real Estate Agency.

In line with the statute, the national defense minister supervises the Military Chamber of the Supreme Court and the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office, organizational units of the military judiciary (regional and garrison courts) and prosecutor's offices (regional and garrison offices), as well as the Field Chaplain Corps of the Polish Armed Forces, the Orthodox Chaplain Corps of the Polish Armed Forces, and the Evangelical Chaplain Corps.

The other ordinance, which enters into force on 17 August, specifies the general statements of the law regarding the scope of the national defense minister's activity; it also specifies his powers in relation to the entire defense system of the state and takes into account some of the powers included in other laws (there are over 100 of them), which also pertain to the tasks of the national defense minister.

The ordinance in question particularly points to new tasks of the minister in the area of the state's defense, management of the Armed Forces, and participation of the Polish Republic in international military undertakings.

It reflects the role of the minister as an organ of government administration that initiates and coordinates activities aimed at ensuring external security of the state, and exercises general supervision over the implementation of defense tasks in the links of the extramilitary system. It defines the powers of the national defense minister as the chief organ of the government administration in the area of the state's defense.

The ordinance specifies the tasks of the national defense minister in the following areas:

—preparing the main guidelines of the state defense;

—implementing the general guidelines, decisions, and directives of the Council of Ministers regarding the state's defense and coordinating the process of carrying out the tasks that result from them;

—exercising general supervision over the process of carrying out defense tasks by organs of state administration, state institutions, organs of the territorial self-government, companies, and other entities;

—being generally in charge of issues related to the performance of the general defense duty;

—managing the administration of personnel reserves to ensure performance of the general duty of defense;

—managing all of the activities of the armed forces in peacetime and preparing proposals regarding their development and structure;

—supervising the performance of the military service duty, the education of soldiers, and issues related to satisfying their basic needs;

—being in charge of the work aimed at satisfying material, technological, and financial needs of the armed forces;

—managing human resource issues in MON;

—specifying the goals, directions, and tasks of military training;

—international issues;

—managing economic activities in MON, particularly in the armed forces, managing the ministry's financial economy, representing the State Treasury as the owner of the fixed assets used by the organizational units of the ministry, as well as taking actions specified by laws on state budget units and forms of extrabudgetary economy found in MON;

—taking all kinds of actions (specified in separate regulations) in relation to military schools, military research units, state-owned companies for which the institution of the national defense minister is the founding organ, military health service institutions, agencies, and foundations, as well as exercising the powers of the chief organ of state administration in relation to regional organs of military administration and other military organs;

—exercising supervision over the activity of the Military Police (in the scope and in line with the principles specified by separate laws) and over the activity of the Military Information Service, particularly over its operational activity.

Other tasks of the national defense minister include the following: initiating and organizing research work for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

defense; shaping and carrying out an information policy concerning defense; shaping the employment-related and organizational structures in MON; submitting to the president and the prime minister periodical reports on the condition of the armed forces; specifying detailed principles of protecting state and professional secrets in MON and exercising supervision in this area; organizing and conducting activities aimed at relieving social problems in MON; specifying detailed organizational and employment-related solutions concerning the chaplain corps and the principles and mode of cooperation with those corps; exercising supervision over military organizational units of prosecutor's offices and over military courts as far as the service of career soldiers in those institutions is concerned; organizing and conducting inspections of organizational units of MON; publishing the Official Gazette of MON.

The ordinance is the first legal act in the postwar legal system of the Polish Republic that regulates specific tasks of the national defense minister.

The regulations found in the ordinance, along with the provisions of the law on the Office of the National Defense Minister, create conditions that enable the minister to carry out the tasks assigned to him. They primarily result from the experience of recent years, acquired thanks to the establishment of the practice in line with which MON is headed by a civilian. Such a person is to guarantee democratic and civilian control over the armed forces.

So far, tasks of the national defense minister in the area of the state's defense have been outlined, very generally, in the regulations of Articles 12 to 14 of the Law on the General Duty of Defending the Polish Republic of 21 November 1967.

Poland: Zych Warns Peasant Party May Quit Ruling Coalition

LD1908103796 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 0800 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sejm Speaker Jozef Zych has again failed to rule out the possibility of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] quitting the government coalition. Today's guest on the Polish Radio Third Program admitted that there are many issues that divide the coalition members. He expressed the hope that the coming meeting of PSL and Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] activists on 21 August will help clarify certain controversies.

[Begin Zych recording] Are there matters on which we may not be able to agree? We have had such very difficult issues—for example, budget guidelines—where agreement was eventually reached. But, theoretically speaking, anything can happen. I can see many problems, ranging from changes in the government composition to issues connected with the adoption of the constitution, so, because we have to enter the second stage—that is, the second reading in the National Assembly, as well as certain legislative problems—I have kept warning that should the coalition members continue to fail resolving important and essential issues, this could obviously happen. [end recording]

Poland: PSL Head: Incumbent Ministers Cannot Be Given New Powers

LD1808135896 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1325 GMT 18 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Nowy Sacz, 18 Aug—The position of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] on a possible government reshuffle after the reform of the administrative and economic center has been implemented depends not so much on political decisions but on legal analyses, party Chairman Waldemar Pawlak says.

Pawlak, who attended the Nowy Sacz Province congress of the PSL in Nawojowa, said that ministers currently in office cannot be given new powers. "To our knowledge, new powers can only be given to ministers in two cases: when the Council of Ministers changes and when a minister is appointed," he said.

Pawlak hopes the ruling coalition will consider this problem and reach agreement on this issue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Romania: Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Treaty

AU1708162496 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview granted today to our reporters, Marcel Dinu, secretary of state of the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, said that there is every chance that the work on the basic treaty with Hungary and the elaboration of the joint political declaration, as well as the accord on reconciliation and partnership be concluded simultaneously. All these documents supplement and strengthen each other, and their signing would be an extremely positive signal given to the political forces in both countries, as well as the entire European continent, illustrating the fact that Romania and Hungary are heading for the consolidation of region of stability in the center of Europe, which is of high interest for our continent.

Essentially, the Franco-German reconciliation model, continued the Romanian dignitary, is based on a sole principle, namely that of obstructing the accumulation of problems and tension, as the instruments of reconciliation allow for the appropriate settlement of certain difficult moments that might arise, contribute to the strengthening of mutual confidence, and determine a change in mentality, which is necessary both in Romania and Hungary.

Mr. Marcel Dinu expressed his hope that next week in Budapest the experts of the two ministries will be able to completely finish the texts, both the Romanian- and the Hungarian-language versions, of the basic treaty. This is a purely technical problem, as the contents of the two texts are identical, Dinu said. The same method is to be used in the elaboration of the reconciliation declaration as well, whose text, to a great extent, has already been agreed upon.

Ultimately the signing of the basic treaty will depend on the political decisionmakers, as well as on the way in which their consultations with the various political forces, both in Romania and in Hungary, will evolve. The first realistic and responsible reactions, both in our country and from abroad, are encouraging, assessed the high-ranking Romanian official.

Romania: PUNR's Funar Calls For Defense of National Interests

AU1808183096 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1905 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, in a statement sent for publishing to the ROMPRES news agency, Gheorghe Funar, president of the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR], addresses an appeal to all political parties and alliances, Romania's Parliament and Government, the Vatra Romaneasca Union, and the Avram Iancu Society, calling for them to adopt a stance that defends the interests of the Romanian nation. Furthermore, Funar requests that they should support the president of the country with respect to the finalizing, by abiding by the Constitution, of the draft treaty with Hungary.

The PUNR leader emphasizes the need for the draft treaty text to be published widely by the press, since in his assessment, the territorial integrity of the country, as well as the unity of the Romanian national state cannot be left merely to a negotiating team of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Romania: Funar Wants Referendum on Hungarian Treaty

AU1608183296 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a declaration sent today to our editorial board, Gheorghe Funar, president of the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR], reiterates the opinion of his party about the cooperation and good neighborliness treaty between Romania and Hungary.

The PUNR demands that the draft treaty be submitted to a national referendum, which could be held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections in November.

The declaration warns the Romanian Parliament and Government, the political parties, and public opinion in Romania of the perils generated by the treaty, as well as its consequences, which, quote, look to be much more painful than the consequences of the Vienna dictate of August 1940, unquote.

The PUNR expresses its openness for dialogue and cooperation with all the Romanian political forces, the Presidency of the country, and the Romanian Government, because it considers that in cases such as the cooperation and good neighborliness treaty with Hungary, Romanian national interests should be placed in the foreground.

Romania: President's Spokesman Rejects Funar Stance on Treaty

AU1808182796 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, spokesman for Romania's Presidency, assessed that the declaration issued by Gheorghe Funar, leader of the PUNR [Romanian National Unity Party], regarding the understanding, cooperation, and good neighborliness between Romania and Hungary misleads public opinion and ignores constitutional stipulations,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

because, contrary to his declaration, Romanian diplomacy, having the consent of the Hungarian side, has achieved a joint interpretation of Recommendation 1201 of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. This interpretation takes into consideration the Hungarian-Slovak experience.

On the other hand, Chebeleu pointed out, responsibility for the conclusion of the treaty lies exclusively with Romania's president and the government, and therefore the organization of any national referendum on that issue is superfluous.

In his statement the spokesman of the presidency assesses as void the warning of the PUNR leader about the perils generated by the Romanian-Hungarian treaty.

Romania: UDMR's Marko, Tokes Request 'Corrections' to Treaty

AU1708165496 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1305 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting held last night in Targu Mures, intended to designate the UDMR [Democratic Union Hungarians in Romania] representatives to run for senatorial and chamber of deputies seats, the operative council of that party also debated the position of the UDMR with respect to the negotiations on the conclusion of the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty.

According to the ROMPRES news agency, UDMR President Bela Marko pointed out that the UDMR will take every necessary step and address both the Romanian and Hungarian Governments, as well as certain organizations of ethnic Hungarians living outside Hungarian borders, requesting that necessary corrections should be made in the treaty.

The same idea was emphasized by UDMR Honorary President Laszlo Tokes as well. Tokes voiced his opinion according to which some of the treaty stipulations, in their current form, run counter to the Hungarian Government's program regarding the rights of ethnic Hungarians beyond Hungary's borders, as that program supports the idea of collective rights, as well as certain forms of autonomy being granted to the ethnic Hungarians living outside its borders.

Romania: Ethnic Hungarian Leader on Party's Views of Treaty

LD1708170396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bela Marko, UDMR [Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania] chairman, gave a special statement to clarify the UDMR's reservations regarding the draft of the [Hungarian-Romanian] basic treaty. Peter Marvanyi reports:

[Marvanyi] The fact that according to the appended statement the recommendation [presumably Recommendation No. 1201 of the Council of Europe] does not provide ethnically based autonomy is not a problem for the UDMR, since the union has never demanded this. They have only demanded autonomy forms without an ethnic base. The fact that the ethnic Hungarian politicians in Romania are concerned that this supplement will give the other side a chance to try to eliminate all types of autonomy from the Romanian political life is another matter.

What gave rise to really strong criticism was the other side of the appended statement that excludes collective rights from the recommendation. Bela Marko, union chairman:

[Begin Marko recording] We have extremely serious objections regarding collective rights, regarding the fact that this has been included in this appended statement. It could be said that in the West this is very often identified with the right of secession. This is not the case. This statement that Recommendation No. 1201 does not include, does not mention, collective rights, will in the future, give rise to disputes on interpretation that can cause the application of certain terms of Recommendation No. 1201 to stop, be neutralized, be eliminated. Sadly, I have to say that it is likely that this appended statement was included by the Romanian side with this intention. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Federal

FRY: PRC Favors Yugoslavia's Return to International Community

AU1708191196 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 17 Aug 96

[Interview with Wu Jieping, vice president of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, by Tatjana Lenard; place and date not given—recorded; Wu speaks in Chinese with superimposed translation into Serbo-Croatian]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wu] The visit to Yugoslavia was very successful and fulfilled all of our expectations. China and Yugoslavia maintain relations of friendship and cooperation. An FRY delegation visited China earlier, and our visit is the first by the Chinese National People's Congress to Yugoslavia and symbolizes the official beginning of contact between our two assemblies.

The parliamentary cooperation represents an important component in the development of relations of friendship and cooperation and plays a major role in better understanding and a deepening of mutual trust as well as giving impetus for the development of relations in all realms, especially in economic cooperation between our two countries.

The Chinese National People's Congress ascribes great importance to cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia.

Apart from meetings with the most senior representatives of your parliament, we also held talks with FRY President Zoran Lilic, FRY Prime Minister Radoje Kontic, and other senior officials.

[Lenard] Has China always pursued a very principled policy in connection with the Yugoslav crisis, especially concerning the policy of sanctions?

[Wu] China opposed the introduction of UN sanctions against Yugoslavia. We do not approve of the facile introduction of sanctions against a country by the international community. Sanctions and hegemony inflicted great suffering on Yugoslavia; however, the Yugoslav people were not intimidated by these pressures. During the visit, we assured ourselves of the efforts of your industrious and brave nation to overcome all problems. China favors the creation of a just international political and economic order, based on the principle of peaceful coexistence and cooperation.

[Lenard] Will you support Yugoslavia's return to the international community?

[Wu] China definitely advocates that Yugoslavia again occupy its place in the international community. We are willing to help you in this, subject to our possibilities. We are convinced that, with the improvement of your country's position and the economic recovery, Yugoslavia will definitely have a better future.

[Lenrad] What would be your message to the Yugoslavs?

[Wu] The delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress arrived in Yugoslavia to convey the sentiments of friendship of the Chinese people. We sincerely wish prosperity and affluence to your country and luck to your people. At the same time, we wish to convey the friendly sentiments of the Yugoslavs for the Chinese people. We seek stable relations and a deepening of friendship and cooperation between China and Yugoslavia and our two peoples.

[Lenard] Thank you.

FRY: FRY, Croatian Delegations Complete 'Successful' Talks

AU1708142896 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the FRY Foreign Ministry, which arrived in Zagreb yesterday, completed talks with the representatives of the Croatian Foreign Ministry today. Here is a report from Zagreb by TANJUG correspondent Savo Tomasevic:

[Begin recording] Today's official statement by the Croatian ministry in Zagreb on talks that were held behind closed doors stresses that the talks were successful and that they focused on the documents that are supposed to define the conditions for full normalization of relations between Belgrade and Zagreb.

It is expected that the agreement could be signed by Milan Milutinovic and Mate Granic, diplomatic leaders of the two countries, in Belgrade on 23 August.

As part of the final stage of preparations for the meeting of the two ministers, it was agreed that Deputy Croatian Foreign Minister Ivan Simonovic would travel to Belgrade first on Monday, 19 August. As the statement says, Simonovic will discuss the remaining open issues with FRY Foreign Minister Milutinovic. They will try to find solutions that would satisfy both sides and remove the obstacles to establishing full diplomatic relations. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FRY: Albania Accused of Supporting Kosovo Separatists

LD1608184796 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1829 GMT 16 Aug 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Aug. 16 (TANJUG)—Charge d' affaires of the Yugoslav U.N. mission Miroslav Milosevic accused Albania Friday of openly backing the separatist demands and extremist terrorist wing of ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Milosevic presented the accusation in a letter sent to the chairman of the U.N. Subcomission for Protection of Minorities, whose annual session is under way.

The letter said that ethnic-Albanian extremists had staged a series of terrorist attacks on the civilian Serb population and the Serbia police in Kosovo and Metohija in the more recent months.

The letter followed the presentation in the U.N. subcommission of incorrect information about alleged violations of the rights of the Albanian national minority in Yugoslavia by Albania's delegate.

The letter said Albania had once again misused an international body to spread lies and disinformation and to interfere in Yugoslavia's internal affairs.

Albania's duplicity is reflected in the fact that it totally negates the existence of a Serbian-Montenegrin minority in Albania, whose members have no human rights, let alone collective minority rights, the letter said.

It observed that ethnic-Albanian ultra-nationalists wanted to create another Albanian state in Europe at the expense of Serbia, i.e., Yugoslavia.

The ethnic-Albanian secessionist movement in Kosovo and Metohija has used human and minority rights issues as an instrument for the attainment of their secessionist goal and screen for it, and they have employed all means, including terrorism, the letter said.

It noted that the Yugoslav Government had steadily been urging that the problem be resolved through democratic dialogue, without pre-set conditions, but that such a dialogue had been rejected by ethnic Albanians with Albania's support.

Ethnic Albanian representatives do not recognize the constitutional order, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country they live in, the letter said.

It set out that ethnic-Albanian representatives rejected to participate in the country's political life and openly manifested their disloyalty to Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Serbia

Serbia: Milosevic Receives UN Administrator for E. Slavonia

LD1608182696 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1727 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—President of the Republic [of Serbia] Slobodan Milosevic today received Jacques Klein, UN administrator for the Srem-Baranja region, with aides.

Administrator Klein informed President Milosevic about the most important aspects of the implementation of the Erdut Agreement, particularly the efforts invested into resolving the most important issues of interest for the normal life and work of people in the region. It was assessed that these efforts are bringing positive results.

A joint assessment was that the course of the normalization of relations between Croatia and Yugoslavia and the firm support of both Croatia and Yugoslavia for the implementation of the Erdut Agreement, reflected in the statement issued in Athens, has had an indisputably positive influence on the resolution of issues related to the Srem-Baranja region. At the same time, this is an important factor contributing to the strengthening of peace and stability in former Yugoslavia.

Federal Foreign minister Milan Milutinovic also took part in the talks.

Serbia: SRS Assails Milosevic-Klein Talks on Reintegration

AU1708163396 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1317 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 17 August (BETA)—The talks of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic with Jacques Klein, UN administrator for eastern Slavonia, in the opinion of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) fully support the Serbian Radicals' theory about the surrender of this part of the Serbian Krajina to the Croatian occupying authorities.

"The so-called Erdut Agreement, whose implementation Milosevic advocates so wholeheartedly, is essentially not an agreement but a dictate of the capitulation of the Serbs west of the Drina," today's statement by the SRS states.

The SRS assessed that the so-called talks of the Serbian President and his masters from the West "are only bringing great suffering, national defeat, and catastrophe to our people" daily.

The Radicals warn the authorities in Serbia, especially Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, that, "if the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Croatian occupying forces seize the Serbian Vukovar and other Serbian towns in the region, not only will we lose the territories that have been Serbian for centuries but we will also face another exodus by the people of the Republic of Serbian Krajina."

Serbia: RSNP on Christopher-Milosevic Talks

AU1608183096 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 16 Aug 96

[Report by Zoran Vaskovic—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vaskovic] Speaking at their regular news conference, members of the Radical Party Nikola Pasic [RSNP] expressed the opinion that, regarding the coming federal elections on 3 November, there is enough time for a valid electoral campaign. It is necessary that all parties agree on electoral rules, as was the case four years ago.

Regarding the atmosphere among voters, RSNP Chairman Jovan Glamocanin believes that there have not been any considerable changes since the latest elections. Next week, talks will start with other parties' leaderships about the electoral strategy. Touching upon the Geneva talks, Jovan Glamocanin emphasized that they were very significant. It is particularly important that the United States and the leading members of the Western alliance expressed a readiness to have the Dayton agreement consistently implemented, he said.

Jovan Glamocanin particularly stressed the agreement between Slobodan Milosevic and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Glamocanin] What is involved is the agreement between our president, Slobodan Milosevic, and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, regarding the normalization of relations between the FRY and the United States. We also find encouraging the stand conveyed by Warren Christopher that first to be established will be economic relations and then political ones.

[Vaskovic] The RSNP hails this agreement and emphasizes the great contribution on the part of President Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbia: Arkan Denies Existence of KOA

AU1708165896 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1136 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 16 Jul (BETA)—[Passage omitted] Speaking at a news conference today, Zeljko Raznatovic Arkan, president of the Party of Serbian Unity [SSJ], said that the Krajina Liberation Army [KOA] "does not exist and represents a major deceit behind which, according to some indications, there are some politicians from Vukovar."

Raznatovic said that he is not afraid of the Yugoslav Left (JUL) at the coming elections because it is a "minor organization that should be separated from the people and the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS)." [passage omitted]

SSJ Vice President Boris Pelevic said that the "date for the federal elections suits the SSJ perfectly" and that it will appear with tickets at all electoral units in both Serbia and Montenegro.

He said that party president Raznatovic will be heading all tickets and that the greatest success is expected in Kosovo.

Ljilja Peric, SSJ presidential candidate in the Serb Republic [RS], said that this party has submitted tickets with 83 candidates for the RS parliament, 1,600 members of municipal assemblies, and 14 names for deputies in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Union.

Milorad Novakovic is a candidate for RS vice president, Ljilja Peric said.

Serbia: National Democratic Revival Forming in Serbia

AU1808191096 Belgrade DNEVNI TELEGRAF in Serbo-Croatian 16 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Revived Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade—The formation of the National Democratic Revival [Narodni demokratski preporod], which will "ascend to power very quickly," according to its founder Miroslav Solevic, the former head of the Kosovo-based Serbian Resistance Movement, is currently under way.

Apart from the Serbian Resistance Movement, the new movement will, as Solevic says, consist of 15 nonparliamentary parties, organizations, and associations, and prominent nonparty personalities are also expected to join.

The National Democratic Revival have so far joined the Party of Independent Democrats of Serbia from Nis, the Serbian National Renewal from Nova Pazova, the Pan-Serbian People's Front from Novi Sad, the St. Sava Party from Belgrade, and the Association of St. Sava.

"We will be active throughout the FRY territory, we anticipate joining several Montenegrin parties, and we will run in the federal elections, be it as a movement or as the support for a certain party. If we decide to support somebody, it will be Vojislav Kostunica's Democratic Party of Serbia or a coalition of the Democratic Party of Serbia and the Democratic Party, if they unite," Miroslav Solevic revealed for DNEVNI TELEGRAF.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kosovo

Kosovo: 'Secret' Albanian-Serbian Talks Viewed

AU1708164496 Tirana KOHA JONE in Albanian 17 Aug 96 p 7

[Commentary by G. Levonja: "A Long Way Out of Sight"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Belgrade and Prishtina have long been considered the key to the much-awaited normalization of the situation in Kosova. However, they have also been the main stumbling block to further steps in this direction. Although a long time has passed since the idea of talks between the Serbian authorities and the Albanians of Kosova was floated, and there has been intense pressure from the international community, the two sides have still not succeeded in sitting down opposite one another.

However, it was reported yesterday that a move has been made in this direction. It was the main protagonist of political life in Kosova, the Gandhi of our century, "Mr. Boycott," long one of the principal opponents of the idea of talks, who yesterday replied to a question at an ordinary news conference by confirming the statement by John Kornblum, according to whom the Albanians and the Serbs, a long way out of sight, have begun to talk. The first question following the news supplied by Rugova is who is talking with whom, where, and about what. Since it became clear recently that the start of talks was only a matter of time, the problem among the Albanians has been who would be the person or group of people to talk with the Serbian side. Normally, this would be the indisputable prerogative of Rugova, who became president of the Republic of Kosova following a free ballot of the Albanians. However, the fact that Rugova has all along been an opponent of the idea of talks and has laid down conditions that Belgrade has categorically refused, makes his presence at the talks inconvenient. Serbia may also consider him an unsuitable negotiator because, besides being leader of the Albanians of Kosova, he is also president of the Republic of Kosova, which Belgrade and international political circles consider to be illegitimate. Nevertheless, at his meeting with U.S. Congressman Engel, Milosevic expressed his readiness to talk with Rugova.

This snag could be overcome by choosing lower-rank representatives for the talks. The idea is also increasingly circulating among the various Albanian political circles in Kosova that these talks with the Serbs should be managed by professional politicians, who will not put up with more than they should and will emerge victorious from the discussions. For the past few moths, long-forgotten names such as Mahmut Bakalli, the leader of the seventies; Azem Vllasi, the former youth leader of Yugoslavia; and Adem Demaci, the Mandela of Yugoslav prisons, have become familiar again. Nevertheless, these three names, despite their weight in Kosova's political life, are not backed up by any political forces in whose name they can speak. This could mean that at least one of the people in the talks with Belgrade must necessarily be a member of the Presidium of the Kosova Democratic League [LDK, the main political force of the Albanians of Kosova]. In this case, the choice could fall on the deputy chairman, the well-known intellectual Dr. Fehmi Agani. Mr. Agani, who is not one of the LDK's hawks, is well known as a man of dialogue and perhaps for this reason is one of those personalities enjoying sympathy in Serbian and Yugoslav circles. Dr. Agani also took part in a discussion table of Albanian and Serbian personalities last year. The other thing Rugova mentioned in connection with the Prishtina-Belgrade talks is that they are being conducted a long way out of sight, which, put more bluntly, means in secret, in a third country, and in the presence of a foreign mediator. The presence of a mediator was one of the obstacles to the start of dialogue but has finally been accepted by Belgrade, as long as the mediator is from the EU, while the Albanians want an American. The name of Cyrus Vance has been mentioned. He has long experience in negotiations of this kind. All of this is somewhat reminiscent of Norway's secret mediation between Israel and 'Arafat's PLO, which was crowned with success.

Kosovo: Rugova Hails U.S. Statement on Pristina-Belgrade Talks

AU1608194696 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT in English 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking to reporters today in Prishtina [Pristina], Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosova, said the Kosova issue has continued to draw international attention, and hailed a statement of the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher in Geneva, who was quoted to have said that the United States will continue to encourage dialogue between Prishtina and Belgrade towards a resolution of the situation in Kosova. Dr. Rugova also welcomed remarks on Kosova by U.S. Assistant Secretary John Kornblum, U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns, Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti, EU's envoy to the former Yugoslavia, Carl Bildt, who have all stressed the graveness of the situation in Kosova and the necessity to address it.

Speaking about the current situation in Kosova, President Rugova said systematic repression against Albanians under the alleged pretext of searching for weapons

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

has been continuing. He referred to dozens of cases of Serbian police interventions and raids in Albanian homes and institutions. Dr. Rugova denounced the transfer of Albanian political prisoners from Kosova to prisons in Serbia, including the UNIKOMB Party chairman, Mr. Ukshin Hoti.

President Rugova called for an immediate cessation of repression and for and increased international presence in Kosova, as a preventive measure.

He stressed out that the best solution to the Kosova problem is an independent and neutral state, open to Albania and Serbia, with guarantees for the Serbs living in Kosova, and pointed out that an interim international civil administration would facilitate a negotiated solution to the Kosova issue.

President Rugova reiterated his call on the Macedonian [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] President Gligorov to use his authority to release the Tetovo University leaders, and to drop charges against citizens who have protested peacefully and in the spirit of democratic life.

Ending his remarks, President Rugova underlined that Kosova is one of the eight successor nations of the former Yugoslavia.

Asked by a reporter if the United States was going to be a third party in the Albanian-Serbian talks, President Rugova said: "I appreciate the permanent great concern and efforts of the United States over the Kosova issue. U.S.A., in cooperation with its Western allies, will be playing a leading role in a just solution of the Kosova issue."

Asked to comment a statement of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kornblum, who was quoted to have said that Kosova is being discussed out of the public eye, President Rugova said the Kosova problem is being discussed at all levels.

Kosovo: Rugova Announces Boycott of Nov Elections in FRY

LD1608165996 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1634 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pristina, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—Albanians will not take part in the federal parliamentary elections, Ibrahim Rugova, chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [DSK], told a news conference in Pristina today.

Tadej Rodic and Ljuljeta Pulja Beciri, leaders of two other parties rallying Kosovo Albanians—the Democratic Christian Party [Demohriscanska Stranka] and the Social Democratic Party [Socijaldemokratska Stranka]—also announced the election boycott.

Under the influence of separatist parties, some Kosovo Albanians have boycotted elections in Serbia and Yugoslavia five times so far.

Kosovo: Tirana Press Reports Rugova's Election Boycott

AU1708162996 Tirana KOHA JONE in Albanian 17 Aug 96 p 7

[Article by K.J.: "Boycott of Yugoslav Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The political parties of Kosova announced yesterday that they intend to boycott the FRY parliamentary elections to be held on 3 November. The Kosova Democratic League [LDK] announced the boycott when its leader Rugova said that the Albanians of Kosova have no intention of taking part in the elections because they have already held their own. The LDK claims to have won the elections held in Kosova in May 1992, which created a government parallel to that of Belgrade. In response to a question, Ibrahim Rugova did not deny the fact that Albanian-Serb talks have begun in secret. Rugova said that "legitimate representatives of the people of Kosova are taking part in the talks" but refused to make any further comment. The Yugoslav news agency TANJUG yesterday put an end to speculation about the boycott of other Albanian parties, when it quoted leaders of the Christian Democratic Party and the Social-Democratic Party, which supported the LDK stand, and said that they intended to respond in the same way to the November elections. The Albanians of Kosova have so far boycotted five elections held in the former Yugoslavia. Despite the many criticisms aimed at Rugova when he boycotted the general elections in 1993, he has not changed his stand. It is in the meantime not known whether the decision has been made in consultation with Tirana, which has for some time kept silent about the problems of the Albanians in the former Yugoslavia. The three bombs that exploded in Prishtina in the last year alone have seriously worried Western diplomats, who see Kosova as a potential flashpoint of conflict that could cause a Balkan war. The boycott of the Albanian parties will perhaps not please the Western chancelleries, which are trying to restore normal life to Kosova, offering the status of an autonomous province with extensive rights.

Kosovo: PSDK Discusses Coming Federal Elections

AU1908105496 Zurich BOTA SOT in Albanian 17 Aug 96 p 4

[Statement by the Social Democratic Party of Kosova, PDSK, issued in Pristina on 16 August: "Elections in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the So-Called Yugoslavia Have Nothing To Do With Albanians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pristina, 16 August—The so-called federal elections in Yugoslavia, which will be held this November, have nothing to do with Albanians or Kosova. Even if there were a pure opposition in Serbia, which viewed the Kosova issue differently and considered the problem a democratic issue of self-determination and not a minority issue, it would be unrealistic to expect the Albanians to take part in the so-called federal elections. The Serbian nationalist opposition currently views the Kosova problem in the same way, which is unfortunate for them, because the Serbian regime's reactions and approaches to the issue have become more extreme.

The Kosova issue cannot be considered a domestic problem of Serbia and Yugoslavia; it is a serious international problem awaiting a solution. Many Serbian political forces are now beginning to assert this fact. It would not follow elementary political logic to accept any kind of participation in elections; in fact, to do so would mean accepting a setback in the political movement of Kosova, denying its results and affirming the subjugation and the colonial status of Kosova. International pressures, as well, would be not only dishonest but also politically unproductive—they would simply aim at convincing Albanians to throw themselves into a suicidal adventure. It is really more than cynical to demand that the Albanians help the Serbian opposition topple Milosevic's regime, which this opposition itself strengthened by pounding on Kosova and Albanians.

It would be absurd to expect something dramatic from these elections, even if, hypothetically, the Albanians decided to take such a counterhistorical step and participate, going against all political reason and moral code. This regime, which, when confronted with international pressure, found ways to deceive the world, certainly has the simple technical and procedural ready-made mechanisms to prevent any question or confusion about the election results in Kosova. That type of help could come, for example, from an imaginary coalition of Albanians with the Serbian opposition.

Today, when in Serbia itself there is a new awareness about Kosova and its future, the absurdity of having Albanians participate in the elections becomes even more evident. There is a new, courageous, and realistic approach by a part of the Serbian intelligentsia, which is aware that Kosova can no longer be suppressed through violence and that it is a heavy burden, impeding Serbia's democratization. However, proposals for a certain autonomy for Kosova within the framework of this Yugoslavia are viewed as part of a plot against Serbia by the West, which is trying to keep the feeble Serbia under control. Therefore, proposals for a certain autonomy cannot be considered a solution either from the Serbian intelligentsia or from a part of Serbian political forces, which sees it as simply postponing a real solution to the problem and something that is not in Serbia's interest.

Only a change in the approach to the Kosova problem can guarantee a promising solution for Kosova. A promising solution for Kosova would mean abandoning the old formula, including the minority issue involved, and boldly engaging in more serious projects about Kosova, projects that would pave the way to a real solution in a near future and not to a pragmatic half-solution that would only dangerously prolong the problem.

Kosova is a simple Serbian colony; this does not need any special declaration. The decolonization of Kosova and overall support would require a fundamental commitment by the international community.

Finding a solution to the Kosova problem means supporting all serious proposals that accept the idea of self-determination for Kosovo and the peaceful divorce between Albanians and Serbs, not absurd proposals that favor Albanian participation in the Serbian elections and insist on empty cliches for allegedly resolving the Kosova issue with a certain autonomy, an autonomy that, even for those who proposed it themselves are convinced, is not and cannot be a solution for Kosova. This is according to the statement by the Social Democratic Party of Kosova signed by Luljeta Pula-Beqiri.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.